BATMAN No.16

A SUPERMAN PUBLICATION

DC

APRIL-MAY

10¢

BATMAN

SURPRISE!
SOMEBODY LEARNS THE TRUE IDENTITIES OF BATMAN & ROBIN!
WHO CAN HE BE?

Get TIGER POWER Now It's EASY!

Here is your opportunity to build your body into a virile, dynamic machine of tiger strength. No room these days for weaklings. Now, more than ever, you must be STRONG to get ahead in the world . . . you can get Herculean strength easily at home in spare time with this newly invented chest pull and bar bell combination.

GET BURSTING STRENGTH QUICKLY

No matter if you are a weakling or no matter if you already boast of super muscles, you will find this outfit and instructions that go with it to be just what you need. The entire equipment which contains dozens of individual features are all adjustable in tension, resistance, and strength. This permits you to regulate your workouts to meet the actual resistance of your strength and to increase the power progressively as you build a body of mighty muscles. Men in training and men who have reached the top in performing strong-man feats unanimously acclaim this new progressive chest pull and bar bell combination as being a great advancement in the invention of practical equipment to quickly get strong and develop bursting strength.

The combination is complete in every detail. It contains a new kind of progressive chest pull. Not rubber which wears out and loses its resistive strength, but very heavy and strong tension springs. These tension springs are adjustable so that you may use low strength until you get stronger and terrific pulling resistance when you are muscular. In a short time you will find yourself able to easily accomplish strong man feats which now seem difficult. Included is a specially invented bar bell hook-up. This bar bell outfit permits you to do all kinds of bar bell workouts . . . permits you to practice for weight lifting and at the same time brings into play the muscles of your legs, chest, arms, and grip so that you build as you train.

In addition to these valuable features there is a wall exerciser hook-up enabling you to do all kinds of bending and stretching exercises so necessary for speed and endurance. You also have the features of a rowing machine which is as great an abdominal builder and fat reducer. The hand grips included to help develop a mighty grip. The entire outfit is shipped to you along with pictorial and printed instructions so as to progressively enable you to get stronger day by day.

New PROGRESSIVE CHEST PULL & BAR BELL COMBINATION

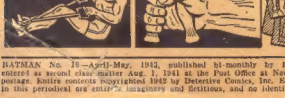
Don't be bunked! Don't let anyone tell you that you can put inches on your biceps, on your chest, have a mighty back, have mighty legs, or a mighty grip, or build any part of your body by fanning the air. No indeed. You need equipment and instructions such as we offer you here. BUT . . . we not only furnish you with equipment, we also supply specially prepared pictorial charts which guide you day by day.

Send No Money

Remember this equipment is used and recommended by many physical directors, boxing champs, and strong men. If it's good enough for them it should be good enough for you too. Order your set today and watch your muscles grow day by day. Just sign your name to the coupon checking outfit wanted. Pay postman price plus postage on arrival. If you can buy a stronger outfit than our Super X set we will give you double your money back. This set defies the lifting and stretching power of champions. Act at once and we will include free with your order the foot stirrups pictured below. If not satisfied after five days trial keep the stirrups and return the balance of the outfit for full refund of purchase price.

Foot stirrups important for foot hand exercises. Sent FREE with order. Permit intensive stretching exercises to develop a mighty torso.

FREE



You get many specially posed pictorial instructions . . . a picture method showing short cuts to mighty muscles.

MUSCLE POWER CO., Dept. 1404
P.O. Box 1, Station X, New York, N. Y.

Send me the outfit checked below on five days' approval. Also enclose special pictorial and printed instructions. I will deposit amount of set plus postage in accordance with your guarantee. Enclose the stirrups free with my order.

☐ Send regular strength chest pull and bar bell combination. Set $5.95.

☐ Send Super strength set at $6.95.

(Send cash with order and we pay postage. Same guarantee.)

Name .....

Address .....

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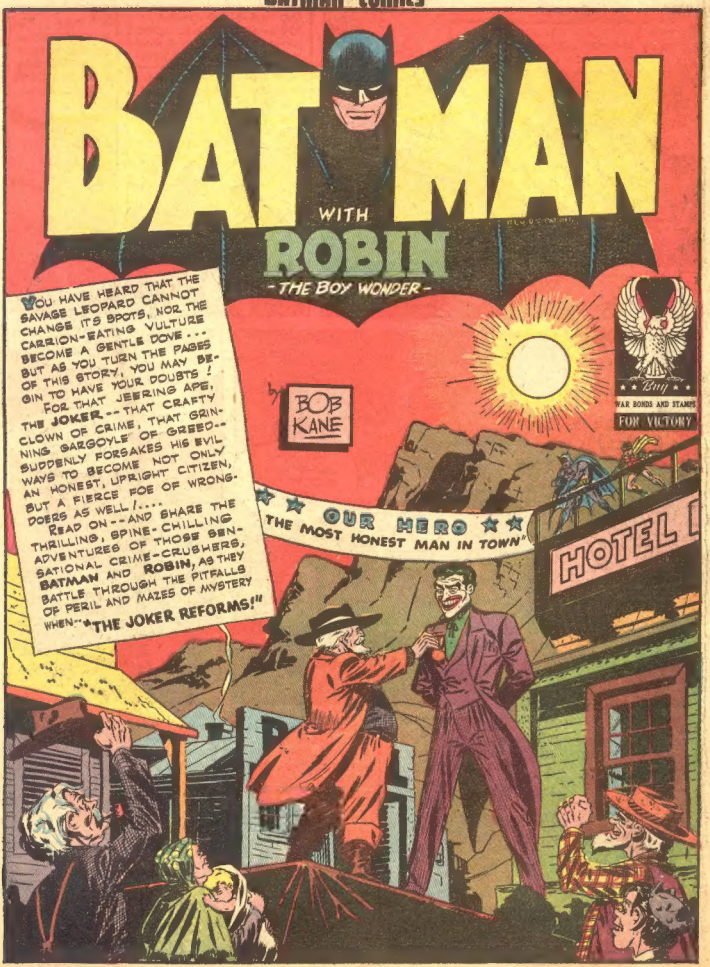
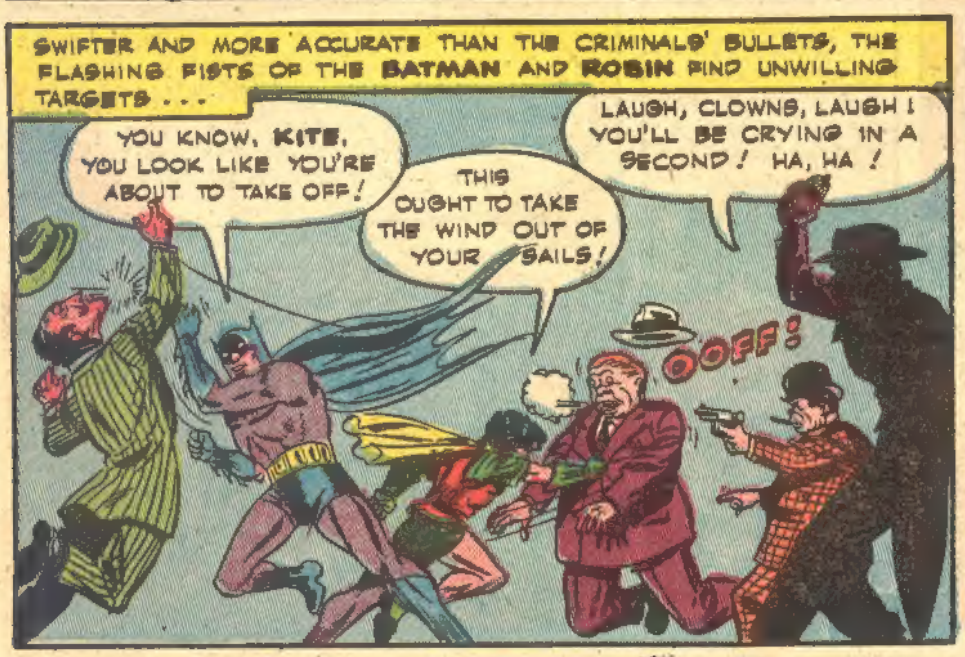
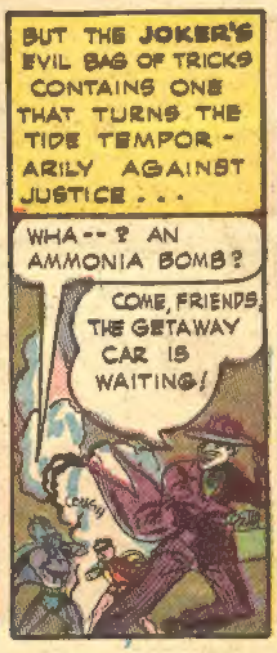
BATMAN No. 10—April-May, 1943, published bi-monthly by Detective Comics, Inc. 480 Lexington Ave., New York, N. Y. F. W. Ellsworth, Editor. Entered as second class matter Aug. 1, 1941 at the Post Office at New York, N. Y. under the Act of March 3, 1879. Yearly subscription in the U. S. 75c including postage. Entire contents Copyrighted 1942 by Detective Comics, Inc. Except those who have authorized use of their names, the stories, characters and incidents mentioned in this periodical are entirely imaginary and fictitious, and no identification with actual persons, living or dead, is intended or should be inferred. Printed in U.S.A.

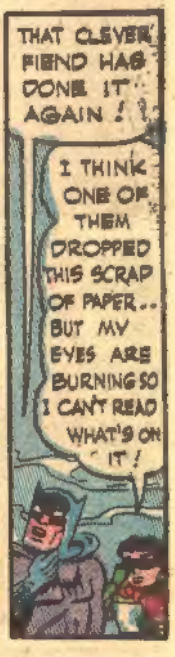

BATMAN
WITH
ROBIN
- THE BOY WONDER -
by
BOB KANE
WAR BONDS AND STAMPS
FOR VICTORY
You have heard that the savage leopard cannot change its spots, nor the carrion-eating vulture become a gentle dove... But as you turn the pages of this story, you may begin to have your doubts! For that jeering ape, the JOKER,--that crafty clown of crime, that grinning gargoyle of greed--suddenly forsakes his evil ways to become not only an honest, upright citizen, but a fierce foe of wrongdoers as well!... Read on--and share the thrilling, spine-chilling adventures of those sensational crime-crushers, BATMAN and ROBIN, as they battle through the pitfalls of peril and mazes of mystery when--"THE JOKER REFORMS!"
OUR HERO
"THE MOST HONEST MAN IN TOWN"
HOTEL

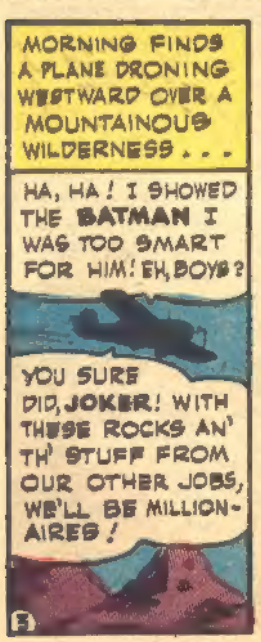
THIS IS THE LAZY LITTLE TOWN OF FARR CORNERS, HIDDEN DEEP IN THE WILDS OF THE OZARK MOUNTAINS...
AND THIS IS A STRANGER IN TOWN--A TALL, TRAVEL-WORN, WAYFARER WHOSE BUSINESS IS WITH THE LOCAL AUTHORITIES.
EXCUSE ME, MY GOOD MAN... CAN YOU DIRECT ME TO THE CHIEF OF POLICE?
RECKON YUH MEAN JEB JOHNSON, TH' CONSTABULE...PLAYIN' CHECKERS WITH SAM UPSON IN TH' STORE!
THIS WILL PROBABLY BE THE BIGGEST CASE THE CONSTABLE HAS EVER WORKED ON...
GENERAL STORE AND POST OFFICE
SAM UPSON PROPRIETOR AND POSTMASTER
ARE YOU CONSTABLE JEB JOHNSON?
YEP, YOUNG FELLER--BUT I'M RIGHT BUSY NOW!
HEH, HEH! LOOKS LIKE I GOT YE BEAT, JEB!
IF YOU COULD SPARE A MINUTE FROM YOUR GAME TO LOOK THESE OVER...
JUMPIN' TOAD-FROGS--DIAMONDS!
AN' EMERALDS--AN' RUBIES--AN' PEARLS!
THIS PAPER WAS WITH THE JEWELS! THEY MUST BE THE LOOT FROM THAT ROBBERY IN GOTHAM CITY!
HOLD ON, STRANGER! WHERE'D YOU GET THIS STUFF? WHO ARE YUH?
GOTHAM GAZETTE
JOKER FLEES WITH STOLEN GEMS AFTER BATTLE WITH BATMAN
I FOUND THEM NEAR A PLANE THAT CRASHED AND BURNED A FEW MILES AWAY! I NEVER HEARD OF THE JOKER OR THE BATMAN, BUT I FIGURED IT WAS A MATTER FOR THE POLICE! AS FOR ME, I'M--ER--ED SMITH!
WAIT A MINUTE! WHERE HAVE WE SEEN THESE LEERING FEATURES BEFORE--THESE GRINNING, CRIMSON LIPS, THESE GLITTERING EYES, ALIVE WITH SATANIC CUNNING! ...WHY, IT'S THE JOKER HIMSELF--UNDYING ENEMY OF THE MIGHTY BATMAN! BUT AGAIN, WAIT! IS IT POSSIBLE THAT THIS GREEDY CLOWN OF CRIME--THIS HARLEQUIN OF HATE--IS ACTUALLY AIDING THE FORCES OF LAW AND ORDER, SURRENDERING HIS SPOILS TO THE POLICE?

PERHAPS, AFTER ALL, WE SHOULD HAVE STARTED OUR TALE WITH A BRIEF BUT BITTER BATTLE THAT TOOK PLACE IN FAR-OFF GOTHAM CITY THE PRECEDING EVENING...
KRAKMAKER AVE
LOOKS LIKE THIS IS YOUR LAST JOB, JOKER!
THE BATMAN!
JEWELRY


SWIFTER AND MORE ACCURATE THAN THE CRIMINALS' BULLETS, THE FLASHING FISTS OF THE BATMAN AND ROBIN FIND UNWILLING TARGETS...
YOU KNOW, KITE, YOU LOOK LIKE YOU'RE ABOUT TO TAKE OFF!
THIS OUGHT TO TAKE THE WIND OUT OF YOUR SAILS!
LAUGH, CLOWNS, LAUGH! YOU'LL BE CRYING IN A SECOND! HA, HA!
OOFF!


BUT THE JOKER'S EVIL BAG OF TRICKS CONTAINS ONE THAT TURNS THE TIDE TEMPORARILY AGAINST JUSTICE...
WHA--? AN AMMONIA BOMB?
COME, FRIENDS, THE GETAWAY CAR IS WAITING!


THAT CLEVER FIEND HAS DONE IT AGAIN!
I THINK ONE OF THEM DROPPED THIS SCRAP OF PAPER... BUT MY EYES ARE BURNING SO I CAN'T READ WHAT'S ON IT!


MORNING FINDS A PLANE DRONING WESTWARD OVER A MOUNTAINOUS WILDERNESS...
HA, HA! I SHOWED THE BATMAN I WAS TOO SMART FOR HIM! EH, BOYS?
YOU SURE DID, JOKER! WITH THESE ROCKS AN' TH' STUFF FROM OUR OTHER JOBS, WE'LL BE MILLIONAIRES!

ME, THE BRAINIEST CRIMINAL ON EARTH--AND YOU THREE, THE MOST SKILLFUL OPERATORS IN THE UNDERWORLD! WE'VE HAD A LOT OF FUN, HAVEN'T WE, SPARKY?
I'LL HAVE MORE FUN WHEN I GET TO WHERE YOU CACHED THE SWAG, AND I GET MY SHARE!

WE'LL BE THERE IN JUST A FEW MINUTES AND---WHAT'S THIS? THE ENGINE'S GETTING READY TO QUIT!
WHAT A SPOT FOR A FORCED LANDING! WE'D NEVER MAKE IT!
SPUTT--
SPUTT--
SPUTT--
SPUTT--
SPUTT--
SPUTT--

QUICK---BAIL OUT IN YOUR CHUTES!--I'LL HOLD HER STEADY TILL YOU'VE GONE, AND THEN I'LL FOLLOW YOU!
CHEE--I DON'T MIND SHOOTIN', BUT DIS HIGH-DIVIN' ACT HAS GOT ME SCARED STIFF!

SO IT IS THAT THESE SILKEN PARACHUTES MUSHROOM IN THE AIR HIGH ABOVE THE WOODED HILLS...

SPUTT..

SPUTT.. SPUTT..

WHILE THE JOKER'S GREED DRIVES HIM TO A TREACHEROUS GAMBLE WITH FATE!

HA, HA! WHAT FOOLS THEY ARE! IF I CAN KEEP THIS PLANE IN THE AIR, I WON'T HAVE TO SPLIT WITH THEM! THEY'LL NEVER FIND THE HIDDEN LOOT -- AND THEY'LL NEVER SEE ME AGAIN! HA, HA!

SPUTTTT--

SPUTTTT... SPUTTTT--

BUT THE MOTOR IS IN WORSE SHAPE THAN THE ARCH-CROOK REALIZES... FLAMES BURST FROM THE COWLING -- THE CRAFT DIVES SHARPLY -- AND SECONDS LATER.....

HOURS PASS -- AND IN A DENSE RAVINE NOT FAR FROM THE SMOKING RUINS OF THE PLANE, A SPRAWLED FIGURE STIRS...

WH-WHERE AM I?...I FEEL STUNNED, DIZZY... MUST HAVE BEEN WALKING AND FELL DOWN HERE...

WHO AM I? FUNNY... CAN'T SEEM TO REMEMBER A THING! OH, WELL,-- PERHAPS IT WILL ALL COME BACK AS THE SHOCK WEARS OFF... OH....MY HEAD IS SPINNING...

A PLANE! CRASHED AND DESTROYED! COULD I HAVE BEEN IN IT? ...BUT NO -- I'D CERTAINLY HAVE BEEN KILLED IN THAT CASE... HMMM -- HERE'S A VALISE THAT WAS THROWN CLEAR.

JEWELS WORTH A FORTUNE! WONDER IF THIS NEWSPAPER THAT WAS INSIDE THE VALISE CAN TELL ME ANYTHING...?

WHY, THIS MUST BE THE LOOT FROM THAT ROBBERY! AND THE JOKER - WHOEVER HE IS - MUST HAVE BEEN BURNED TO DEATH MAKING HIS GETAWAY! JUST ONE MORE PROOF THAT CRIME DOESN'T PAY!

GOTHAM GAZETTE

JOKER FLEES WITH STOLEN JEWELS AFTER BATTLE WITH BATMAN

EVENTUALLY, THIS ROAD WILL LEAD ME TO SOME TOWN, WHERE I CAN GIVE THIS STUFF TO THE POLICE ...AND MAYBE, ON THE WAY, MY MEMORY WILL COME BACK!

SO YOU SEE, THE AGE OF MIRACLES IS NOT PAST! CALL IT SHEER LUCK THAT THE **JOKER** WAS THROWN CLEAR OF HIS DOOMED PLANE INTO BUSHES THAT CUSHIONED HIS FALL... USE THE SOLID SCIENTIFIC TERM **AMNESIA** TO EXPLAIN HIS LOSS OF MEMORY DUE TO SHOCK... BUT WHEN WE SEE THAT WARPED AND TWISTED MIND TURNING TO THOUGHTS OF HONESTY -- WELL, **MIRACLE** IS THE ONLY WORD THAT FITS THE CASE!

IN GOTHAM CITY, MEANWHILE, **BRUCE WAYNE** AND HIS YOUNG WARD, **DICK GRAYSON**, CONSIDER THEIR NEXT MOVE...

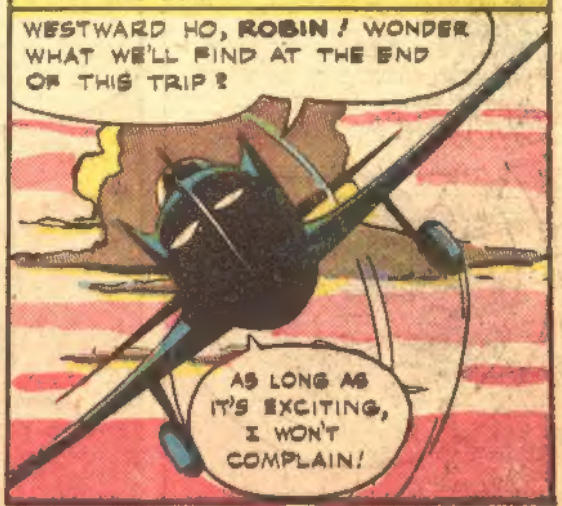
SO YOU THINK THE **JOKER** HIT FOR THE TALL TIMBERS?
YES, **DICK**-- THE JEWEL ROBBERY HAD ALL THE EARMARKS OF A FINAL JOB TO TOP OFF THAT SERIES OF OTHER CRIMES! AND WE HAVEN'T A SINGLE CLUE TO FOLLOW UNLESS...

....UNLESS THIS SCRAP OF PAPER WE FOUND NEAR THE ROBBERY SCENE IS A CLUE... IT BEARS THE NAME OF A MAN AND A TOWN IN THE OZARKS -- "JOE KERSWAG, FARR CORNERS" -- BUT WE AREN'T EVEN SURE THE **JOKER** DROPPED IT!
I KNOW A GOOD WAY TO FIND OUT IN A HURRY!

YOU'RE RIGHT, YOUNG FELLA -- WE MIGHT BETTER BE TAKING A LOOK AT FARR CORNERS THAN TWIDDLING OUR THUMBS HERE!
I CAN'T RELAX ANYWAY, THINKING OF THAT LAUGHING HYENA GETTING AWAY WITH STOLEN MILLIONS!

CLOAKED AND MASKED, EAGER FOR ANOTHER BOUT WITH THE JOCUND JACK-OF-ALL-CRIMES, THE **BATMAN** AND **ROBIN** FOLLOW A TUNNEL TO A SECRET UNDERGROUND HANGAR...

A SUPERCHARGED MOTOR THUNDERS A CHALLENGE OF UNSURPASSED POWER AS THE **BATPLANE** STREAKS INTO THE SKY...



WHILE THE DYNAMIC DUO OF CRIME-SMASHERS IS WINGING SWIFTLY TOWARD ADVENTURE, THREE DOLEFUL CROOKS PLOD GLUMLY TOWARD THE OUTSKIRTS OF FARR CORNERS ...

WHAT A ROTTEN BREAK! THE **JOKER** AND THE JEWELS GONE -- AND WE DON'T KNOW WHERE THE REST OF THE SWAG IS PLANTED!

YA WANNA KNOW WHAT I T'INK, **KITE**? I T'INK THE **JOKER** PULLED A FAST ONE AN' LIT OUT WIT' DA BOODLE!

FARR CORNERS 1 MILE

YOU'RE DREAMING, **NITRO**! WE DIDN'T SEE HIM JUMP, SO HE MUST HAVE BURNED UP WITH THE CRATE! IT'S UP TO US TO GET BACK TO THE BIG TOWN AND MAKE ANOTHER STAKE!

I'M GOIN' BACK TA DA BIG TOWN, AWRIGHT, **SPARKY** -- BUT WHEN I GET DERE, I'M GONNA START LOOKIN' FER DAT DOUBLE-CROSSER WIT' A PINEAPPLE IN ME POCKET!

THE DEJECTED TRIO HAS SPENT MUCH TIME WANDERING IN THE MOUNTAINS... AND THE SLEEPY VILLAGE HAS TAKEN ON A FESTIVE AIR SINCE LAST WE VISITED IT...

BIGGEST CELEBRATION SINCE MA HUPPER'S FUNERAL, HANK!

WELCOME OUR HERO

I'LL SAY THIS FUR FARR CORNERS -- NOBODY LIKES T' WORK BUT WHEN THERE'S A PARTY BREWIN', EVERYBODY WAKES UP AN' GETS BUSY!

HERO

WONDER WHAT THE HICKS ARE CELEBRATING?

ED SMITH

AS MAYOR O' THIS HERE TOWN, I HAVE ORDERED THIS HERE BLOW-OUT T'DO HONOR TO A STRANGER WHO HAS PUT FARR CORNERS ON TH' MAP AT LAST!

OUR HERO

TOMORRA EVERY NEWSPAPER IN AMERICA WILL TELL HOW ED SMITH BRUNG TO OUR ENTERPRISIN' CONSTABULE PRECIOUS JEWELS STOLE BY CROOKS FROM TH' WICKED CITIES O' TH' EAST, WHICH SAME HE FOUND OUT IN THE MOUNTAINS...

AIN'T IT WONDERFUL T' THINK TH' NAME O' FARR CORNERS WILL SMACK EVERY AMERICAN WHO CAN READ, RIGHT IN TH' EYE, FOLKS?

BUT THE **JOKER'S** ERSTWHILE COMRADES IN CRIME HAVE A SHOCK IN STORE FOR THEM...

OUR HERO

SOMEBODY FOUND THE **JOKER'S** VALISE! MAYBE WE CAN STEAL IT BACK!

HONEST ED SMITH

ED SMITH

AN' NOW I AM RIGHT DUMFOUNDED WITH JOY T' PRESENT TH' HONESTEST MAN IN THESE PARTS - GUEST O' HONOR -- ED SMITH HISSELF, IN TH' FLESH!

SOME CLODHOPPER WHO DIDN'T EVEN KNOW DA STUFF WAS WOITH DOUGH, I BETCHA!

MY VERY GOOD FRIENDS AND FELLOW-CITIZENS---
HOORAY FUR HONEST ED SMITH!
YIPPEE!
OUR HERO
HAVE I GONE CRAZY OR ---? IT'S HIM!

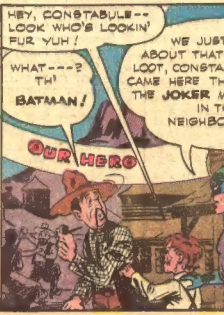
I HAVE ALWAYS TRIED TO LIVE BY THAT OLD COPY-BOOK MAXIM-- 'HONESTY IS THE BEST POLICY!'
PUT THAT GUN AWAY, NITRO. YOU IDIOT! THE JOKER IS THE BRAINIEST CROOK ON EARTH! HE'S GOT SOMETHING UP HIS SLEEVE!
WHY, DA TWO-TIMIN' RAT!

SPARKY'S RIGHT! THE JOKER'S FOOLING THE PEOPLE SO HE CAN PULL SOMETHING BIG-- AND HE'LL CUT US IN ON IT!
WELL, I'LL GIVE HIM A CHANCE -- BUT I'M KEEPIN' ME FINGERS CROSSED!

WE'LL HOLE UP IN THE LOCAL FLEA-TRAP AND CONTACT HIM LATER WHEN THINGS HAVE QUIETED DOWN!
WONDER WHAT HE'S GOT HIS EYE ON? MAYBE THERE'S A GOLD MINE IN THE VICINITY- OR REAL DOUGH IN THE BANK!

NIGHT--AND TWO AWSOME FIGURES FLIT THROUGH BAT-LIKE SHADOWS CAST BY FESTIVAL TORCHES...
LOOKS LIKE OLD HOME WEEK!
SOMETIMES I THINK SMALL-TOWN FOLKS HAVE A LOT MORE FUN THAN CITY PEOPLE!
GEE-WHILIKING! HERE I'M READIN' ABOUT TH' BATMAN AN' ROBIN --AN' THERE THEY ARE!

THAT'S RIGHT, SONNY-- WE'RE GENUINE! BUT WHAT'S THE PARTY ABOUT?
IMAGINE ME MEETIN' YOU FELLERS!... TH' PARTY? OH, SOMEBODY FOUND SOME JEWELS STOLE BY TH' JOKER--


HEY, CONSTABULE-- LOOK WHO'S LOOKIN' FUR YUH!
WHAT---? TH' BATMAN!
WE JUST HEARD ABOUT THAT ROBBERY LOOT, CONSTABLE... WE CAME HERE THINKING THE JOKER MIGHT BE IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD!
OUR HERO

WALLOPIN' WOODCHUCKS-- WE'LL HAVE ANOTHER PARTY FUR YOU TWO! BUT I RECKON YUH WON'T FIND TH' JOKER ON ACCOUNT O' ED SMITH FIGGERS HE BURNED UP IN A PLANE!
THAT'S TOO BAD-- OR IS IT? ANYWAY, IF HE'S DEAD, WE'LL MISS THE EXCITEMENT OF MATCHING WITS AND PUNCHES WITH HIM!

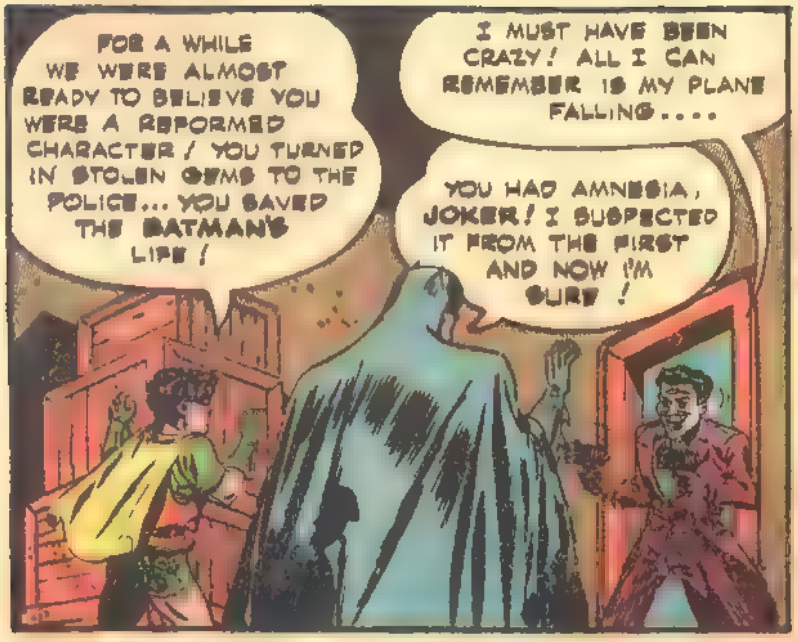
'COURSE, I AIN'T NEVER SEEN THE JOKER - NOT EVEN HIS PITCHER, WAY OUT HERE! BUT COME OVER TO MY OFFICE AN' LET ED SMITH TELL YUH ABOUT IT ... HE'S SO MODEST, HE'S HIDIN' THERE FROM THE CROWDS!
IF THERE'S THE SLIGHTEST CHANCE THAT THE JOKER IS LIVING ... I WANT TO KNOW.. HE'S THE MOST ELUSIVE CRIMINAL ON EARTH!
JAIL
YOU'LL LIKE THIS FELLER! HE'S SO HONEST --- SO FRIENDLY!
GIVING UP A FORTUNE IN JEWELS PROVES HE'S HONEST, ANYWAY!
SMITH, MEET UP WITH TH' FAMOUS LAW-ENFORCIN' TEAM OF BATMAN AND ROBIN!
GLAD TO KNOW YOU, SMITH --- HUH?
IT'S A PLEASURE! I'VE BEEN READING ABOUT YOU GENTLEMEN IN THE NEWSPAPERS!
YOU LOOK AS IF I WERE A GHOST! IS THERE ANY-THING WRONG?
UH--ER-- I'M NOT QUITE SURE ...
THERE'S PLENTY WRONG, IF IF ANYONE SHOULD ASK ME!
... AND THAT'S THE WHOLE STORY, MR BATMAN! NATURALLY, I BROUGHT THE STONES DIRECTLY TO THE AUTHORITIES!
IT DOESN'T MAKE SENSE, ANY WAY I LOOK AT IT!
NATURALLY.. HMMM...THERE'S NO DOUBT THAT THESE ARE THE ONES STOLEN IN GOTHAM CITY!
NICE HONEST FELLER... AIN'T HE?
LATER... WHY DIDN'T WE GRAB HIM RIGHT AWAY?
IN THE FIRST PLACE, WHETHER OR NOT HE'S BLUFFING ABOUT NOT RECOGNIZING US, I WANT TO FIND OUT WHAT HIS GAME IS ... AND IN THE SECOND PLACE, I'D RATHER CATCH HIM WITH HIS LOOT FROM THOSE OTHER ROBBERIES THAN WITHOUT IT!
STILL UP? I'M GOING TO THE HOTEL FOR A GOOD NIGHT'S SLEEP!
WE'LL WALK WITH YOU IF YOU DON'T MIND, JOK--ER, SMITH!
PSST! HERE HE COMES!

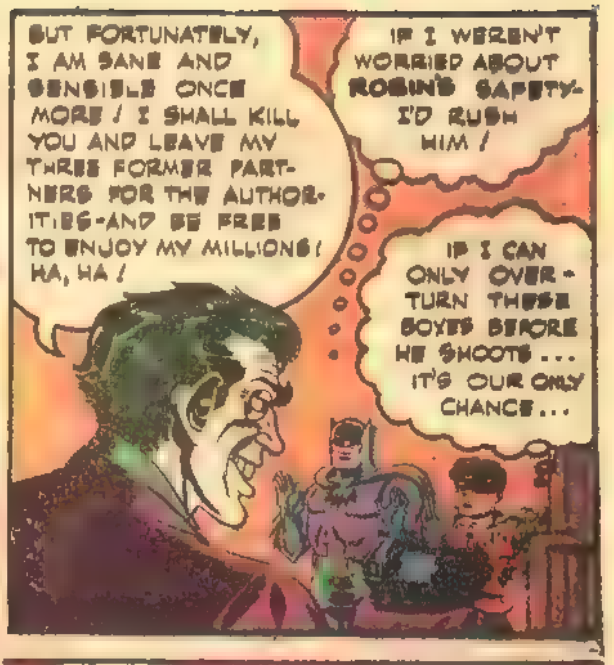
TO THE SUSPICIOUS EYES OF THREE WATCHERS ON THE VERANDA OF THE LOCAL HOSTELRY, THE APPROACHING GROUP CAN HAVE ONLY ONE MEANING...
HEY! DO YOU GUYS SEE WHAT I SEE ?
THE BATMAN AND ROBIN -- AND THEY'VE CAPTURED THE JOKER !
WE'D BETTER GET OUT OF HERE!
HOTEL
WHADDYA MEAN, GET OUT ? HOW CAN WE GET OUR DOUGH WITHOUT THE JOKER ?
NITRO'S RIGHT, SPARKY... WE'VE GOT TO RESCUE HIM !
I DON'T LIKE IT -- BUT I'M GAME !
THE NEXT INSTANT...
DON'T WORRY, BOSS -- WE'LL SAVE YA !
WHAT'S THE MEANING OF THIS ? WHO ARE YOU MEN ?
AS IF YOU DIDN'T KNOW, YOU FOUR-FLUSHER ! THREE GOTHAM CITY CROOKS!
BUT WITH DEATH A HAIRSBREADTH AWAY, THE BATMAN AND ROBIN DISCOVER THAT THEY HAVE AN UNSUSPECTED ALLY!
I'LL TEACH YOU TO GO AROUND POINTING GUNS AT HONEST MEN!
YOU SAVED MY LIFE ! I--I CAN'T BELIEVE IT!
NEITHER CAN NITRO, JUDGING BY THE LOOK ON HIS PAN !
YOU'RE ONE KITE THAT'S THROUGH WITH HIGH-FLYING FOR A WHILE !
WHY SHOULD THE BATMAN BE SURPRISED BECAUSE I KEPT HIM FROM BEING KILLED, ROBIN ?
MAYBE I'LL TELL YOU LATER...
... BUT RIGHT NOW, I'M TRYING TO STRIKE SPARKS FROM SPARKY'S EYEBROWS!
LET'S TAKE IT ON DA LAM! DA JOKER'S DOUBLE-CROSS N' US!
NO USE CHASING THEM IN THE DARK ... I'VE GOT A HUNCH THEY'LL BE COMING BACK !
WHAT WAS THAT LITTLE CHAP SAYING ABOUT THE JOKER ?
YOU WOULDN'T UNDERSTAND, CHUM -- AND DON'T ASK ME WHY !

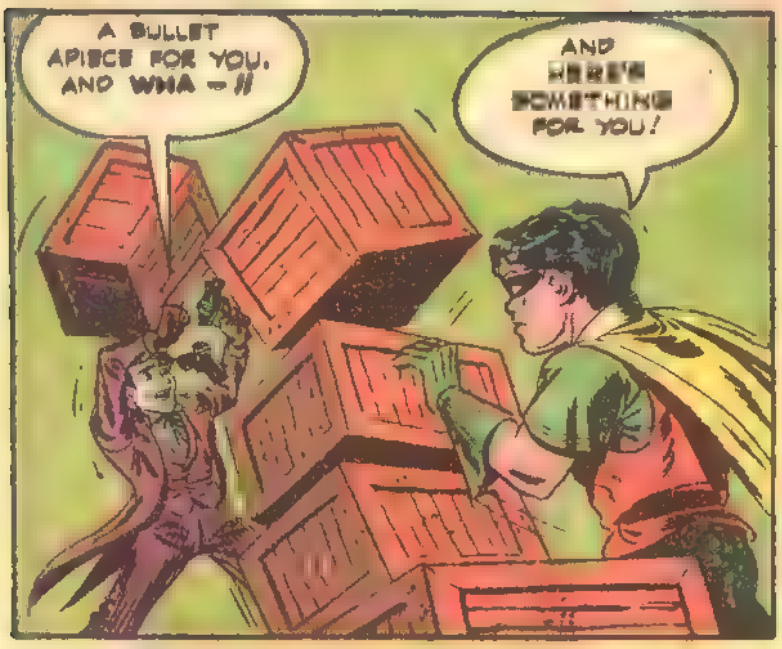
GOOD NIGHT, FELLOW CRIME-FIGHTERS! IF A CLEAR CONSCIENCE MAKES A MAN SLEEP WELL, I OUGHT TO GET A GOOD REST!
HUH? THAT IS - UH -- GOOD NIGHT...
BUT THERE IS NO REST FOR BATMAN AND ROBIN, FACED WITH AS BAFFLING A PROBLEM AS THEY HAVE EVER ENCOUNTERED!..
I TELL YOU IT'S ANOTHER OF HIS DEVILISH TRICKS!
COULD BE -- BUT HE DID SAVE MY LIFE -- WHEN EVERY TIME WE'VE MET BEFORE, HE'S TRIED HIS BEST TO KILL ME!
YOU CAN'T SELL ME THE JOKER AS A REFORMED CHARACTER! DON'T FORGET - THOSE JEWELS HE SURRENDERED ARE ONLY A SMALL PART OF THE SWAG HE AND HIS PALS COLLECTED!
WELL, HE MUST HAVE THE REST HIDDEN SOMEWHERE --- AND AS SOON AS WE GET A LINE ON IT, WE'LL PICK HIM UP!
INDEED, THE MATTER OF THE HIDDEN LOOT IS OCCUPYING THE JOKER'S BRAIN AT THIS PRECISE MOMENT! FOR THE MEMORIES BANISHED FROM HIS CONSCIOUSNESS BY THE PLANE CRASH STILL LURK DEEP IN THE RECESSES OF HIS SUBCONSCIOUS MIND, WHERE DREAMS ARE FASHIONED...
...AND A DREAM OF STARTLING CLARITY DISTURBS HIS SLEEP...
GOLD -- JEWELS -- CASH... MILLIONS IN STOLEN LOOT... PACKED AWAY IN BOXES AND TRUNKS...
WHA -- ? ... I'VE BEEN DREAMING ... AND YET IT WAS SO VIVID --- SO REALISTIC --- I'M SURE IT MUST BE TRUE!
I'LL DO IT! I'LL TAKE A LOOK AND MAKE SURE WHETHER THE DREAM WAS TRUE! WOULDN'T IT BE WONDERFUL IF I COULD RETURN ALL THAT STOLEN PROPERTY TO ITS RIGHTFUL OWNERS?
A GAUNT FIGURE SLIPS OUT OF A WINDOW OF THE HOTEL AND SLINKS INTO THE SHADOWS...
I FEEL LIKE A CROOK USING THE WINDOW AS AN EXIT -- BUT THERE'S NO NEED TO DISTURB ANYONE...
HOTEL

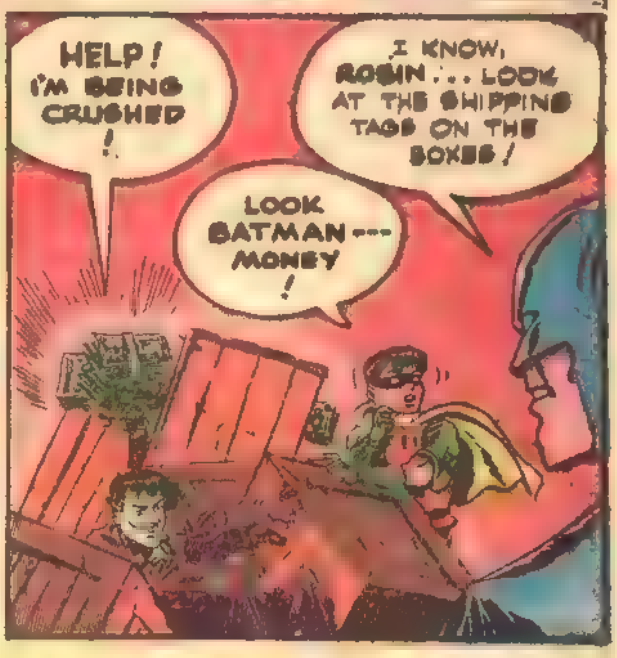
.. BUT NOT UNSEEN !
SO DAT'S IT-- HE'S GONNA ROB DA EXPRESS OFFICE WIT'OUT LETTIN' US IN ON IT!
THE CHANCES ARE IT'S SOMETHING BIGGER THAN THAT... BUT WHATEVER IT IS, WE'LL COUNT OURSELVES IN !
EXPRESS OFFICE
INSIDE THE EXPRESS OFFICE...
WOULDN'T IT BE FUNNY IF SOMEBODY CAUGHT ME HERE ? WHY, THEY'D PROBABLY THINK I WAS A THIEF ! HA, HA, HA, HA !
"FUNNY" ISN'T THE WORD FOR IT, JOKER -- OR RATHER, "ED SMITH" -- NOT IN TH.S CASE !
AT LAST, WE'VE GOT YOU WHERE WE WANT YOU !
WHAT ! YOU HOODLUMS AGAIN ?
YA DONE US DIRT FOR THE LAST TIME !
ALL RIGHT--START TALKING ! WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE? WHERE'S THE STUFF FROM THOSE ROBBERIES WE PULLED?
STUFF FROM ROBBERIES YOU PULLED ? IF YOU DON'T KNOW, HOW SHOULD I ?
LET'S GET OUTA DIS TOWN! WE GOT WAYS O' MAKIN' HIM TALK!
THIS WILL KEEP HIM QUIET TILL WE GET HIM TO A PLACE WHERE NOISE WON'T MATTER !
AND AT THAT VERY MOMENT, THE BATMAN'S MIND SOLVES A PROBLEM THAT HAS PUZZLED HIM ALL DAY...
THAT SCRAP OF PAPER WE FOUND IN GOTHAM CITY..."JOE KERSWAG" ... OF COURSE -- I'VE GOT IT ! COME ON, ROBIN -- TO THE EXPRESS OFFICE !
SNAP!
HUH ?
SECONDS LATER, THE BATTLING DUO LEAPS LIKE TWIN PROJECTILES THROUGH AN OPEN WINDOW...
WELL, WELL -- LOOKS AS IF WE'RE GOING TO HAVE THE RARE EXPERIENCE OF RESCUING THE JOKER FROM CRIMINALS !
THEY'VE GOT THE JOKER !
AND ROBIN !
THE BATMAN!

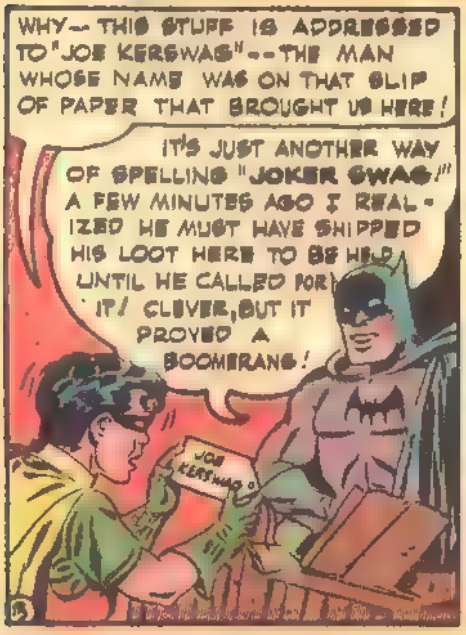
YOU CAN PUT YOUR GUN ON THE SHELF -- AND YOURSELF WITH IT !
THAT WAS YOUR LAST PUNCH, BATMAN!
MIND IF I RIDE WITH YOU?
THE CHANCE OF A LIFETIME SPOILED BY A BRAT !
THANKS, ROBIN!
WRAP THEM UP TIGHT, ROBIN ! WE'LL EXPRESS THEM STRAIGHT TO THE WARDEN !
DON'T FORGET THE JOKER ! HE MAY BE A HERO IN FARR CORNERS -- BUT IN GOTHAM CITY HE'S STILL A WANTED MAN !
OKAY- THAT'S ENOUGH OF THIS!!!
DON'T FORGET THE JOKER ! GOOD ADVICE, ROBIN -- BECAUSE RIGHT NOW THE JOKER IS BEGINNING TO REMEMBER !
MY POOR HEAD ! ..... WHAT HAPPENED ? .... CAN'T REMEMBER COMING TO THIS PLACE, BUT -- WHY, THERE ARE THE BATMAN AND ROBIN! AND THEY'VE CAPTURED MY MEN !
BUT THEY WON'T CAPTURE ME ! THIS IS JUST ONE MORE TIME WHEN THE JOKER IS TOO SMART FOR THEM !
WELL, GENTLEMEN -- THIS IS A COMPLETE SURPRISE TO ME, BUT A HAPPY ONE! HA, HA, HA !
THE JOKER! HE'S CONSCIOUS!
WORSE THAN THAT -- HE'S HIMSELF AGAIN !

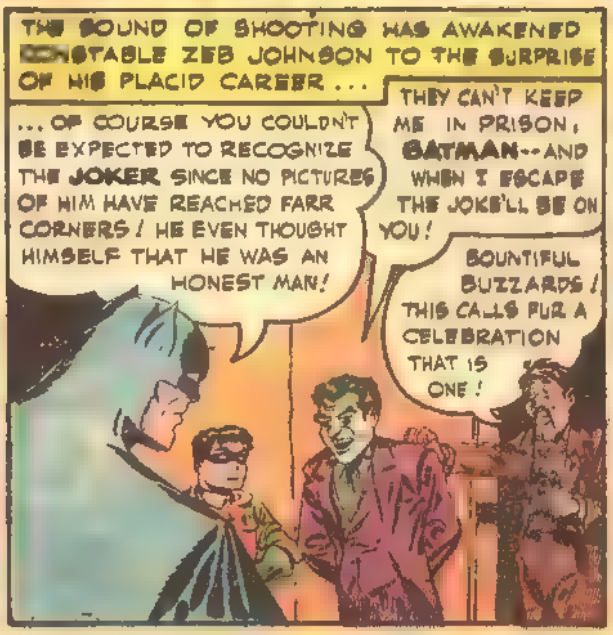

FOR A WHILE WE WERE ALMOST READY TO BELIEVE YOU WERE A REFORMED CHARACTER / YOU TURNED IN STOLEN GEMS TO THE POLICE... YOU SAVED THE BATMAN'S LIFE /
I MUST HAVE BEEN CRAZY! ALL I CAN REMEMBER IS MY PLANE FALLING....
YOU HAD AMNESIA, JOKER! I SUSPECTED IT FROM THE FIRST AND NOW I'M SURE /

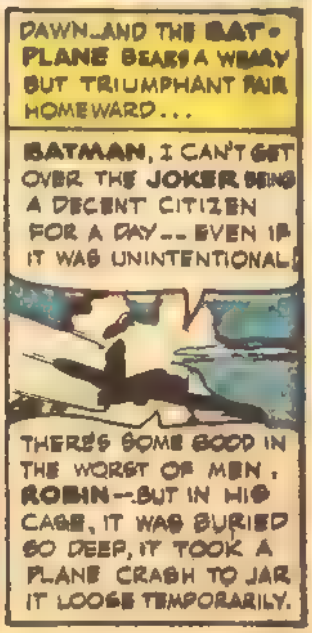

BUT FORTUNATELY, I AM SANE AND SENSIBLE ONCE MORE / I SHALL KILL YOU AND LEAVE MY THREE FORMER PARTNERS FOR THE AUTHORITIES-AND BE FREE TO ENJOY MY MILLIONS! HA, HA /
IF I WEREN'T WORRIED ABOUT ROBIN'S SAFETY- I'D RUSH HIM /
IF I CAN ONLY OVERTURN THESE BOXES BEFORE HE SHOOTS... IT'S OUR ONLY CHANCE...

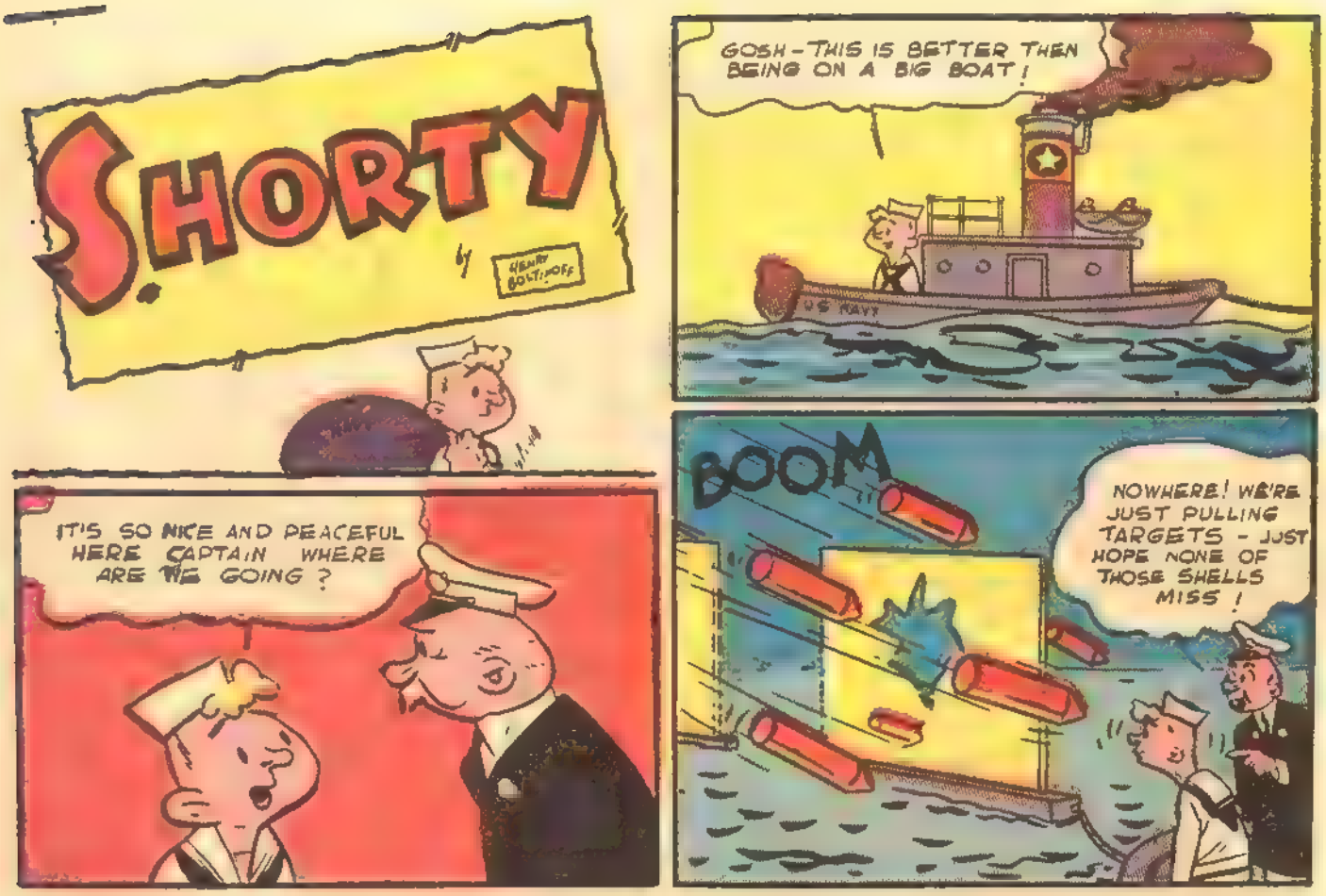

A BULLET APIECE FOR YOU, AND WHA - //
AND HERE'S SOMETHING FOR YOU!


HELP! I'M BEING CRUSHED!
I KNOW, ROBIN... LOOK AT THE SHIPPING TAGS ON THE BOXES /
LOOK BATMAN--- MONEY!


WHY-- THIS STUFF IS ADDRESSED TO "JOE KERSWAG"-- THE MAN WHOSE NAME WAS ON THAT SLIP OF PAPER THAT BROUGHT US HERE!
IT'S JUST ANOTHER WAY OF SPELLING "JOKER SWAG!" A FEW MINUTES AGO I REALIZED HE MUST HAVE SHIPPED HIS LOOT HERE TO BE HELD UNTIL HE CALLED FOR IT/ CLEVER, BUT IT PROVED A BOOMERANG!
JOE KERSWAG

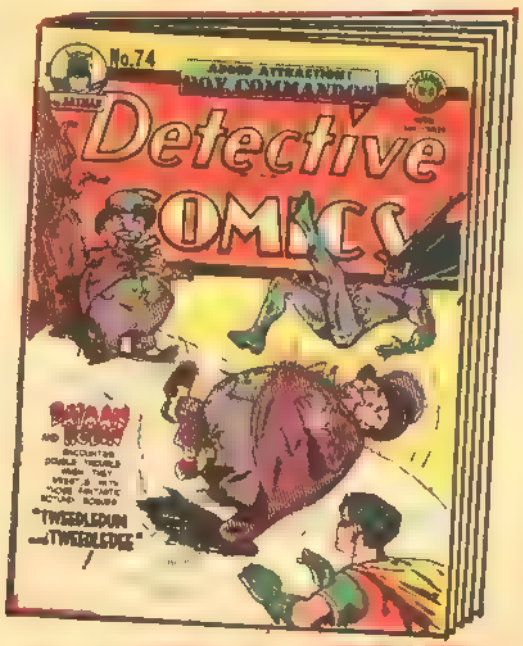

THE SOUND OF SHOOTING HAS AWAKENED CONSTABLE ZEB JOHNSON TO THE SURPRISE OF HIS PLACID CAREER...
... OF COURSE YOU COULDN'T BE EXPECTED TO RECOGNIZE THE JOKER SINCE NO PICTURES OF HIM HAVE REACHED FARR CORNERS / HE EVEN THOUGHT HIMSELF THAT HE WAS AN HONEST MAN!
THEY CAN'T KEEP ME IN PRISON, BATMAN-- AND WHEN I ESCAPE THE JOKE'LL BE ON YOU!
BOUNTIFUL BUZZARDS! THIS CALLS FUR A CELEBRATION THAT IS ONE!


DAWN..AND THE BAT-PLANE BEARS A WEARY BUT TRIUMPHANT FAIR HOMEWARD...
BATMAN, I CAN'T GET OVER THE JOKER BEING A DECENT CITIZEN FOR A DAY-- EVEN IF IT WAS UNINTENTIONAL!
THERE'S SOME GOOD IN THE WORST OF MEN, ROBIN--BUT IN HIS CASE, IT WAS BURIED SO DEEP, IT TOOK A PLANE CRASH TO JAR IT LOOSE TEMPORARILY.


SHORTY
by HENRY BOLTINOFF
GOSH - THIS IS BETTER THEN BEING ON A BIG BOAT!
U.S. NAVY
IT'S SO NICE AND PEACEFUL HERE CAPTAIN WHERE ARE WE GOING?
BOOM
NOWHERE! WE'RE JUST PULLING TARGETS - JUST HOPE NONE OF THOSE SHELLS MISS!

THE WINNING TEAM!!

BATMAN AND ROBIN ARE AMERICA'S No.1 ACTION TEAM! FOLLOW THEIR EXPLOITS IN EVERY ISSUE OF DETECTIVE COMICS!



ALSO IN EACH ISSUE OF DETECTIVE COMICS! BOY COMMANDOS! --MOST SENSATIONAL NEW STRIP OF THE YEAR!

A NEW ISSUE ON SALE EVERY MONTH!

MARMADUKE · JONES

I'M SO GLAD YOU LIVE HERE WITH US, SUSIE.
IT'S NOT ONLY A PLEASANT HOME, IT IS ALSO CONVENIENT TO THE SCHOOL.
AND BEING MY SON'S TEACHER MAKES IT PLEASANT TOO.
YES, HE ESCORTS ME TO AND FROM SCHOOL EVERY DAY.
GOODBYE, SUSIE.
GOODBYE.
SO LONG, MOM.
SWELL DAY, ISN'T IT, TEACHER?
DON'T CALL ME TEACHER-- I'M ONE OF THE FAMILY NOW THAT I'M LIVING AT YOUR HOUSE.
JUST FORGET THAT I'M TEACHER--I'D LIKE IT MUCH BETTER.
MARMADUKE, WILL YOU ERASE THE BLACKBOARD, PLEASE?
O.K., SUSIE.
? ?

SILLY WILLY

HENRY BOLTINOFF

THIS SPOT LOOKS VERY QUIET!

I'LL HAVE TO GET OFF BY MYSELF TO GET IT DONE!

THERE - NOW I CAN DO MY KNITTING FOR THE RED CROSS WITHOUT ANYONE MAKING FUN OF ME!

BANG!

BOMBSHELL!

THE SENSATIONAL YOUNG HEROES OF THE YEAR'S MOST SENSATIONAL NEW COMIC STRIP NOW HAVE A MAGAZINE OF THEIR OWN!

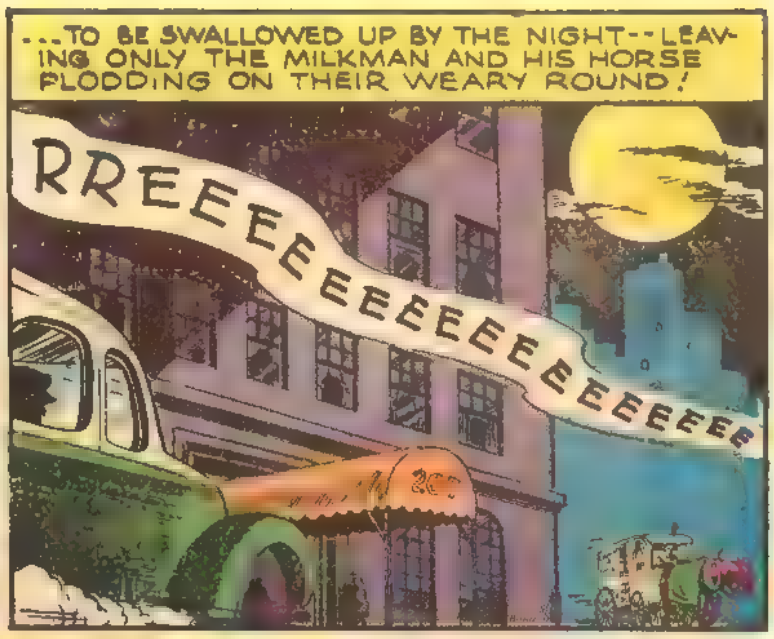
THE FIRST ISSUE OF THIS SLAM-BANG FAST-ACTION MAGAZINE SOLD OUT! READERS ARE STILL RAVING ABOUT IT... SO DON'T MISS THIS

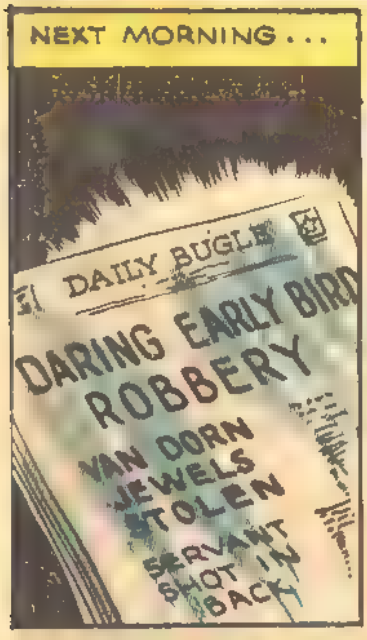
2ND BIG ISSUE

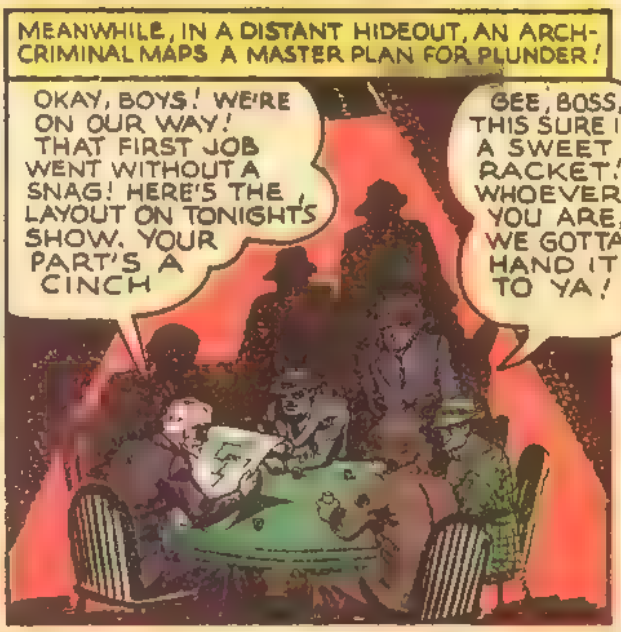
ON SALE FEB. 5TH

BATMAN
WITH
ROBIN
-THE BOY WONDER-
ROBBERY AND VIOLENCE RUN RAMPANT AS A NEW, BAFFLING CRIME WAVE SWEEPS OVER GOTHAM CITY - AN EVIL BREW CONCOCTED IN THE FERTILE BRAIN OF AN INGENIOUS CRIMINAL! UNSUSPECTED, UNKNOWN... HE WALKS AMONG HIS VICTIMS - WHILE HIS HIRELINGS OBEY HIS COMMANDS AND ESCAPE BEFORE THE VERY EYES OF THE PUZZLED POLICE! EVEN THE AGILE WITS OF BATMAN AND ROBIN, THE BOY WONDER, ARE PUT TO A SEVERE TEST WHEN THEY TRY TO SOLVE THE MYSTERY OF---
"The GRADE A CRIMES!"
GRADE A
Buy
WAR BONDS AND STAMPS
FOR VICTORY
THE DARK HOUR BEFORE DAWN... GOTHAM CITY SLEEPS! ALL BUT THE FAITHFUL SERVANTS OF RICH AND POOR ALIKE..THE MILKMEN!
CLIPADY CLOP!

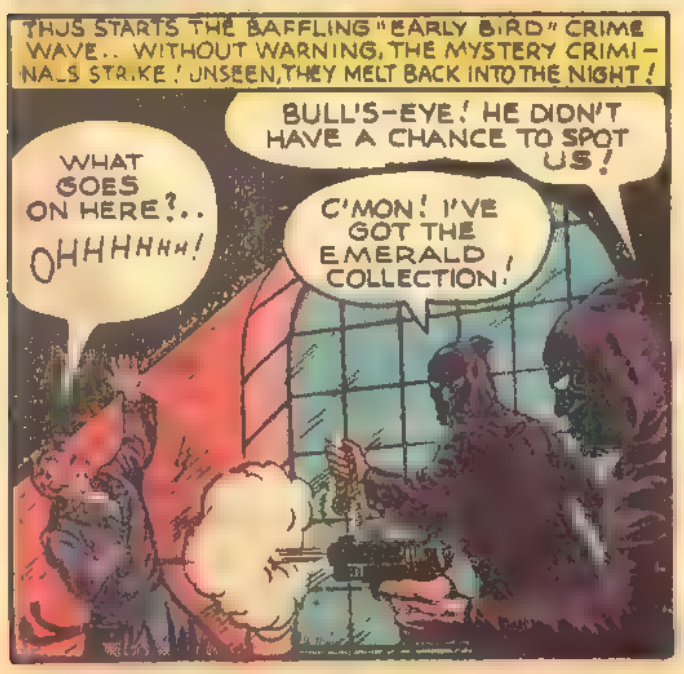
SUDDENLY! A RINGING SHOT CRASHES THROUGH THE SILENCE . . . A SHADOWY FIGURE SPEEDS QUICKLY INTO THE DARKNESS . . .
207

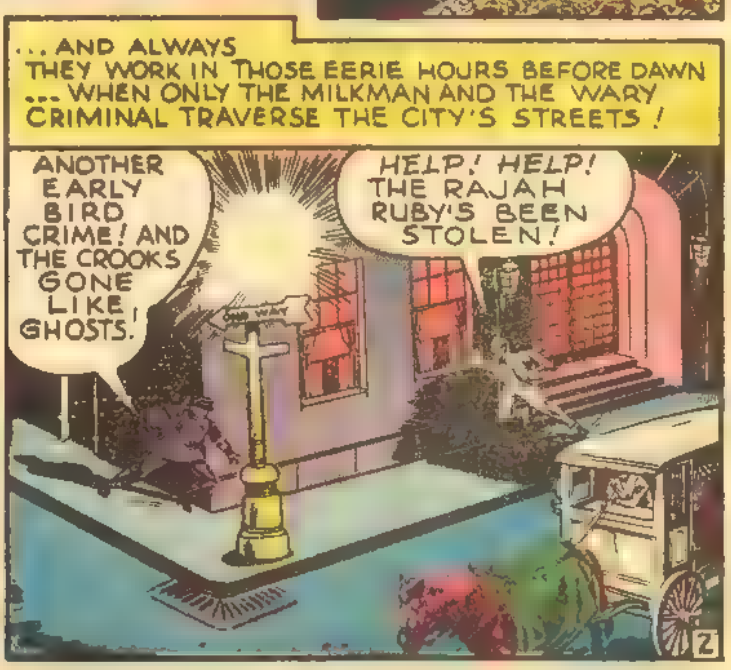

. . . TO BE SWALLOWED UP BY THE NIGHT -- LEAVING ONLY THE MILKMAN AND HIS HORSE PLODDING ON THEIR WEARY ROUND!
RREEEEEEEEEEEEEEEE


NEXT MORNING . . .
DAILY BUGLE
DARING EARLY BIRD ROBBERY
VAN DORN JEWELS STOLEN
SERVANT SHOT IN BACK


MEANWHILE, IN A DISTANT HIDEOUT, AN ARCH-CRIMINAL MAPS A MASTER PLAN FOR PLUNDER!
OKAY, BOYS! WE'RE ON OUR WAY! THAT FIRST JOB WENT WITHOUT A SNAG! HERE'S THE LAYOUT ON TONIGHT'S SHOW. YOUR PART'S A CINCH
GEE, BOSS, THIS SURE IS A SWEET RACKET! WHOEVER YOU ARE, WE GOTTA HAND IT TO YA!

HA! WHAT A SENSATION IF MY IDENTITY WERE KNOWN! . . . AT LAST I SHALL REAP THE REWARD OF MY CAREFUL PLANS . . . THE FABULOUS GEMS OF THE AGES WILL BELONG TO ME!


THUS STARTS THE BAFFLING "EARLY BIRD" CRIME WAVE . . WITHOUT WARNING, THE MYSTERY CRIMINALS STRIKE! UNSEEN, THEY MELT BACK INTO THE NIGHT!
WHAT GOES ON HERE?.. OHHHHHH!
BULL'S-EYE! HE DIDN'T HAVE A CHANCE TO SPOT US!
C'MON! I'VE GOT THE EMERALD COLLECTION!


. . . AND ALWAYS THEY WORK IN THOSE EERIE HOURS BEFORE DAWN . . . WHEN ONLY THE MILKMAN AND THE WARY CRIMINAL TRAVERSE THE CITY'S STREETS!
ANOTHER EARLY BIRD CRIME! AND THE CROOKS GONE LIKE GHOSTS!
HELP! HELP! THE RAJAH RUBY'S BEEN STOLEN!
2

WHILE SOMEWHERE NEAR THE CRIME-SWEPT CITY, THE MASTER CRIMINAL GLOATS!
AH! ANOTHER FLAWLESS BEAUTY! I'LL NEVER SELL THIS ONE!
AND, AS ONE NIGHT HE LEAVES THE LAVISH MORGON MANSION, WITH HIS YOUNG WARD, DICK GRAYSON..
WAY PAST YOUR BEDTIME, YOUNGSTER! I DIDN'T THINK THE RECEPTION WOULD LAST SO LATE!
BOY! DID YOU SEE THOSE WEDDING GIFTS? BET THEY TEMPT THOSE EARLY BIRD CROOKS!
THE MYSTERIOUS CRIME WAVE CONTINUES! CLUES? NONE! BUT THERE IS A PATTERN FOR THOSE WHO CAN SEE IT — AND THERE IS ONE WHO CAN! BATMAN, THAT NEMESIS OF CRIME WHO CLOAKS HIS IDENTITY BEHIND THE GUISE OF PLAYBOY BRUCE WAYNE!
AN ODD TRICK OF LIGHT THROWS THE SHADOW OF BATMAN ON A WALL... A WARNING OMEN TO GANGDOM!
THAT'S A MIGHTY STRANGE BUSINESS--NO CLUES, NO CROOKS—AND NO JEWELS!
WHAT PUZZLES ME, IS HOW THOSE THUGS GET IN SO EASILY! ALMOST LIKE GHOSTS!
SUDDENLY---A SHOT! A PIERCING CRY... AND THE SHARP STACCATO OF RUNNING FEET!
CRACK!
YAAAAAAAA!
YES, BUT GHOSTS DON'T SHOOT!
—AND THAT MEANS WORK FOR US!
INSTANTLY—A STARTLING CHANGE COMES OVER THE PAIR! A FEW QUICK MOVEMENTS, AND THEY RACE DOWN THE STREET AS BATMAN AND ROBIN!
ANOTHER EARLY BIRD CRIME! THAT SHOT CAME FROM THE MORGON MANSION
LOOK! SOMEONE'S GETTING AWAY!
YEOW! BATMAN!
NOT SO FAST, PAL!

BUT AS BATMAN STRUGGLES WITH THE CLOAKED CRIMINAL, ANOTHER FIGURE LEAPS SUDDENLY FROM THE SHADOWS!
SOCK!
AND THE SCALES ARE TIPPED AGAINST THE GALLANT DUO... WITH YOUNG ROBIN'S LIFE IN THE BALANCE!
STEP BACK, WISE GUY... OR THIS KID'LL LOOK LIKE A WOODPECKER'S MASTERPIECE!
OKAY! YOU WIN! BUT THIS IS ONLY ROUND ONE!
A VICIOUS BLOW CRASHES AGAINST BATMAN'S SKULL!
HERE'S YOUR PRECIOUS BRAT!
YOU'RE NOT SO TOUGH NOW, BATMAN! LET'S SCRAM, SPARKS!
BRIEF MOMENTS LATER...
IT'S ALL MY FAULT! I SHOULDN'T HAVE LET HIM SNEAK UP ON ME!
WHEW! NEVER THOUGHT I'D GET A SWELLED HEAD! CHIN UP, KID... I SHOULD HAVE GUESSED THERE'D BE TWO! LET'S GO AFTER 'EM... THEY DIDN'T HAVE MUCH OF A HEAD-START!
DOWN THE STREET CLATTERS A MILKWAGON, TOWED BY A WEARY OLD HORSE...
THEY WENT THIS WAY! MAYBE THAT MILKMAN SAW THEM!
CLIPPETY CLOP
...YES, A ROBBERY AND SHOOTING! YOU'RE CERTAIN YOU DIDN'T SEE ANYONE?
NOPE! NOT EVEN A CAT! ME AND OLD DAISY HERE SURE WOULD HAVE SPOTTED 'EM!
GRADE A MILK
A BEWILDERED DUO TURNS BACK TOWARD THE SILENT MORGON MANSION...
WELL, AT LEAST WE CAN FIND OUT ABOUT THAT SHOT!
THERE WAS NO ONE IN THE HOUSE BUT THE GUARD ... EVERYONE LEFT ON THE MORGON YACHT!

MOVING WARILY THROUGH THE DARK HALLS, THE CRIME-FIGHTERS REACH A HALF-OPENED DOOR—AND FIND...
BATMAN, LOOK! THAT'S THE ROOM WHERE THE GIFTS WERE DISPLAYED!
SOMEONE'S LYING ON THE FLOOR!
IT'S THE GUARD!
POOR CHAP... HE DIDN'T HAVE A CHANCE. SHOT IN THE BACK BY THOSE YELLOW MURDERERS!
HMMM! THEY TOOK ONLY THE JEWELS AGAIN... LEFT ALL THIS VALUABLE SILVER! HEY! WHAT'S THIS?
A WHITE BUTTON! TORN FROM A WHITE COAT... AND THOSE CROOKS WERE WEARING BLACK MANTLES... VERY ODD!
TWO WEARY ADVENTURERS FINALLY REACH HOME... AND BED!
I'VE GOT TO FIGURE THIS OUT! ALWAYS THE SAME PATTERN... MYSTERIOUS ENTRY AT 3 OR 4 A.M.,—ONLY VALUABLE GEMS STOLEN... THE GUARD ALWAYS TAKEN BY SURPRISE, AND SHOT IN THE BACK! AND A PARTY ALWAYS PRECEDING THE LOOTING!..WHAT'S IT ALL MEAN?
HO! HUM! DON'T FORGET THAT WHITE BUTTON!
NEXT MORNING... BRUCE AND DICK ARE STILL TRYING TO SOLVE THE MYSTERY...
I KNOW THE ANSWER'S RIGHT HERE! IF I CAN JUST FIT THE PIECES TOGETHER... THIS WHITE BUTTON... THE WHOLE CRIME PATTERN...
MMM! THIS MILK TASTES GOOD!
MILK! THAT'S IT! WOW! WHAT A SET-UP! SO SIMPLE.. ..SO COMPLETELY SAFE! WHAT A FOOL I AM! LET THEM SLIP RIGHT OUT OF MY HANDS!
OOPS! ...LET ME IN ON THIS!
--ALL THIS ADDS UP AT LAST! 4 A.M. IN THE MORNING — A WHITE BUTTON — MYSTERIOUS GETAWAY.... THE MILKMAN.
JEEPERS! YOU MEAN THAT MILK DRIVER WAS ONE OF THE CROOKS?

RIGHT! THE OTHER THUG WAS PROBABLY HIDING IN THE BACK OF THE MILK WAGON! NOW TO FIGURE OUT HOW THEY GOT IN SO EASILY... DICK, WE'RE GOING TO A PARTY TONIGHT!
OKAY- BUT THIS NIGHT LIFE IS WEARING ME DOWN!
DAILY BUGLE
MORGON HOME ROBBED ON WEDDING GIFTS
GUARD SHOT IN BACK
POLICE STILL BAFFLED
WITH FINGERS
ALL DE GUESTS
IN BRUCE WAYNE'S LABORATORY . . . .
IT'S ALL CLEAR NOW! THOSE CRIMES ALWAYS OCCUR AFTER A PARTY! THAT MEANS SOMEONE AT EACH PARTY IS THE INSIDE MAN- GETS THE LAYOUT, MAYBE STEALS THE KEYS...
YOU MEAN THE CROOKS WILL PROBABLY STRIKE AT WINTHROP'S AFTER THE SHINDIG, TONIGHT?
SURE! THE DORLAI DIAMOND'S THE BEST BAIT YET! HERE, ROBIN - PREPARE THIS FORMULA WHILE I DO SOME CHECKING UP ON THOSE OTHER PARTIES!
RIGHT!
AS THE MIDNIGHT HOUR CHIMES, AN AWESOME SHAPE WINGS SILENTLY ACROSS THE SKY... THE BATPLANE!
AND, LIKE A GREAT, SILENT BIRD, COMES TO REST ON THE ROOF OF A PALATIAL MANSION!
OUR FISHING SHOULD BE DOUBLY GOOD TONIGHT! WHOEVER'S BEHIND THESE CRIMES MUST BE A BIG SHOT IN THE MILK INDUSTRY - OR THOSE MILKMAN CROOKS COULD NEVER GET AWAY WITH IT!
A PRECARIOUS CLIMB DOWN A VINE-TRELLISED WALL...
AND THERE'LL BE PLENTY OF DAIRY AND MILK COMPANY MEN AT TONIGHT'S PARTY!
HOW DO YOU KNOW?
...AND TWO MORE DISTINGUISHED GUESTS JOIN THE PARTY... UNSEEN!
S-S-SH! HERE COME SOME PEOPLE. LOOK! IT'S WINTHROP HIMSELF WITH ANOTHER GUEST.
A RARE GEM, BILL! ALMOST PRICELESS! I'M KEEPING IT MIGHTY WELL GUARDED!
WELL, WINTHOP, WHAT DO YOU THINK OF THE DORLAI DIAMOND? AS A JEWEL COLLECTOR YOU SHOULD KNOW ITS WORTH!
6

(BETTER THAN YOU THINK, WINTHROP!) YOU SEE, ROBIN, WINTHROP IS TREASURER OF THE PURITY MILK CO.—BIGGEST IN TOWN!
I GET IT! THAT MEANS PLENTY OF HIS BUSINESS FRIENDS WILL BE HERE—INCLUDING THE "INSIDE MAN" WHO'S THE CHIEF CROOK!
EXACTLY! ONLY TROUBLE IS, WINTHROP AND AT LEAST THREE OTHERS IN THERE WERE PRESENT AT THE OTHER PARTIES... I CHECKED UP THIS AFTERNOON.
GOSH, WE'RE STYMIED THEN!
I'M NOT SO SURE! SOMEONE IS STILL HERE... OFFERING THE GUARDS A NIGHT-CAP!
THEY'RE LEAVING—AND WE'VE FOUND OUT NOTHING!
FINALLY... THE LAST LIGHT GOES OUT, AND A MANTLE OF SILENCE ENVELOPS THE WINTHROP HOME.
IF THE CROOKS STRIKE HERE TONIGHT, THEY'LL FIND UNPLEASANT COMPANY! ROBIN, YOU HAVE THE CHEMICAL—GO DOWN AND WATCH FOR THE MILKMAN!
OKAY! I'LL JUST HANG ON TO THIS CLINGING VINE!
A SHADOW-LIKE FIGURE GLIDES INTO THE GUARDED ROOM... AND FINDS...
A FINE PAIR OF WATCH-DOGS YOU ARE!
HA! I THOUGHT SO... IT WASN'T THE HOUR THAT PUT YOU TO SLEEP; SO YOU GAVE YOURSELF AWAY, MR. CHIEF CROOK! OHO! TIME FOR THE MILKMAN... AND TIME FOR ME TO RETIRE!
CLIPPETY CLOP
SUDDENLY—A STEALTHY FOOTSTEP... A HAND TURNING A DOOR-KNOB...
AND BATMAN WAITS, NERVES TENSED... EYES FOCUSED...

LIKE AN EVIL GNOME OF NIGHT, THE CLOAKED MARAUDER STEALS UP ON THE HELPLESS GUARDS!
CAN'T LET THEM SHOOT THE GUARDS! HAVE TO CHANGE MY PLANS SOMEWHAT!
JUST SO'S YOU WON'T LOOK DRUGGED, I'LL PUMP SOME LEAD INTO YA!
AN AGILE, CAT-LIKE LEAP...AND A LEAN FIGURE SPRINGS FROM THE SHADOWS!
I HOPE I'M INTRUDING!
EOW! I'M SEEING THINGS!
YES! YOU'RE SEEING STARS!
WITHOUT WARNING, A GLARING BEAM OF LIGHT STABS OUT FROM NOWHERE---BLINDING BATMAN!
AND YOU'VE SEEN TOO MUCH FOR YOUR OWN HEALTH!
WHAT..!
A BULLET WHINES THROUGH THE AIR...
GOT HIM!
CRACK
AND A CRUMPLED FIGURE LIES UPON THE FLOOR! CAN IT BE--HAS THE CHAMPION OF JUSTICE FOUGHT HIS LAST BATTLE AGAINST EVIL?
IT'S BATMAN AGAIN! DON'T LET HIM GET AWAY THIS TIME!
HE DON'T LOOK LIKE HE'LL EVER GO ANYPLACE AGAIN! BUT WE'LL MAKE SURE!
BUT BATMAN IS VERY MUCH ALIVE!
I'M GOING PLACES RIGHT NOW!
HELP! HE AIN'T DEAD!
8

I'M NO GHOST, BROTHER! JUST AN OLD ARMY TRICK— PRETEND YOU'RE SHOT - THROW ENEMY OFF GUARD!
AND AS THE MIGHTY MAN OF NIGHT FIGHTS THE PLUNDERERS, A STRANGE TABLEAU IS ENACTED OUTSIDE!
WHOA THERE, FELLER! YOU'RE GOING TO HELP US CATCH SOME BAD EGGS!
INSIDE...THE STRUGGLE CONTINUES..
DIDN'T PLAN ON HAVING THIS FIGHT!
I'M..GASP... GASP...CHOKING! U-UNCLE!
SAY UNCLE!
A HAND SNAKES OUT---A FINGER CLOSES SLOWLY OVER A GUN TRIGGER!
BOY! I BET YOU'RE BURNED UP!
THIS TIME I WON'T MISS!
A MINIATURE STREAK OF LIGHTNING FLASHES ACROSS THE ROOM!
SNUG AS A THUG IN A RUG!
NICE TIMING, ROBIN!
HEY, BATMAN! YOU GOT THE WRONG GUY!
TAKE IT EASY, ROBIN. YOU FORGET OUR PLAN! HEAD FOR THE BATPLANE!
I'M GETTIN' OUT'A HERE!
GET IT NOW, ROBIN? THEY'LL HEAD STRAIGHT FOR THE DAIRY STABLES—AND I'LL WAGER THAT'S THE HIDEOUT WHERE OUR CHIEF PRIZE IS!
SORRY, BATMAN, I LOST MY HEAD!
GIT UP THERE, DAISY!

A DARK SKY — AND A WEIRD SIGHT BELOW! A SLEEK, WINGED BLACK PLANE FLYING CLOSE ABOVE A COUNTRY ROAD!
THESE LENSES WILL FILTER OUT THE INFRA-RED PAINT I USED ON DAISY'S HOOVES! LOOK! THERE'S THE FARM!
GOOD! NOW TO GET DOWN TO EARTH— AND BUSINESS!
PRESENTLY, TWO SHAPES BLEND WITH THE SHADOWS AS THEY STREAK THROUGH THE FARM GROUNDS!
THAT HAYSTACK WILL CONCEAL THE BATPLANE... LET'S TRY THE BARNS FIRST!
A MODEL FARM — GLEAMING AND SPOTLESS... EQUIPPED WITH EVERY MODERN ELECTRICAL CONVENIENCE!
NOTHING OUT OF ORDER HERE! HOLY COW! WHAT A NEAT IDEA FOR A PERFECT HIDE-OUT!
STILL SEEKING THE LAST CLUE TO THE ROBBERIES... THE CRIME-CRUSHERS SLIP SILENTLY INTO THE MILKING BARN...
HERE'S ONE OF THOSE ELECTRICAL MILKING PUMPS — WORK BY SUCTION!
QUICK! INTO THE STALL! SOMEONE'S COMING!
SWIFTLY, THE DYNAMIC DUO DISAPPEARS... AS TWO WHITE-COATED FIGURES ENTER THE BARN!
I TELL YA, BOSS — HE FOUGHT LIKE TEN MEN! WE DIDN'T STAND A CHANCE!
YOU FOOLS! I THOUGHT YOU COULD AIM STRAIGHT! HE LET YOU GO FOR A PURPOSE! PROBABLY ON OUR TRAIL RIGHT NOW... BUT HE'LL NEVER FIND THESE!
A FABULOUS, GLITTERING STREAM FLOWS OUT OF THE MILKING PUMP... INTO A MILK CAN!
WOW! I WISH ALL COWS GAVE MILK LIKE THIS!
TIME FOR US TO CLEAR OUT OF HERE! I'LL PAY YOU BOYS OFF AND WE'LL SCRAM!
THAT CACHE LOOKS LIKE A REAL MILKING PUMP... YOU'RE SURE SMART, BOSS! WHO'D LOOK FOR JOOLS IN A DAIRY!?
AS THOUGH FROM NOWHERE, TWIN THUNDERBOLTS FLASH ACROSS THE BARN!
WE WOULD! YOU'VE DONE ENOUGH "MILKING!"
GET THE GANG, SPARKS! UGH!
YEOW! BATMAN AGAIN!
AND DON'T FORGET ME!
10

WHERE'D THEY COME FROM!
TAKE A STALL FOR, YOURSELF!
A FURTIVE HAND STEALS OUT—A LEVER FALLS!
...AND A SUDDEN BLAST OF WATER PLUNGES DOWNWARD!
THE WASHING SYSTEM!
WHAT NEXT? WATERFALLS IN A DAIRY!
HAMPERED BY THE CLINGING FOLDS OF HIS CAPE, BATMAN FIGHTS ON... BUT THE DYNAMIC DUO IS SOON OUTNUMBERED...
GLUG! GLUG!
TSK! TSK! CRYING OVER SPILLED MILK!
A DOUBLE-HEADER! LOOK OUT, ROBIN!
...AND FINALLY OVERPOWERED!
WELL, WELL! NOBLE FIGHTING DESERVES A NOBLE END! TRIGGER, TAKE THEM TO THE PASTEURIZING PLANT!
YOU CAN DROP THAT MASK, WINTHROP! I CAN SEE RIGHT THROUGH YOU.
BUT...BUT... IT CAN'T BE!
WINTHROP! WEALTHY TREASURER OF THE PURITY MILK CO., HOST OF BARON KLINGLE! CAN HE BE THE ARCH-CROOK!
IT'S IMPOSSIBLE! YOU COULDN'T HAVE KNOWN! EVEN MY MEN DON'T KNOW WHO I AM!
I ADMIRE YOUR CLEVER SLEUTHING, BATMAN! WHAT ELSE DID YOU FIGURE OUT?
IT WAS EASY, WINTHROP! THE JOBS WERE HELPED FROM THE INSIDE! YOU WERE PRESENT AT EACH PARTY! YOU GOT THE SKELETON KEY...YOU DRUGGED THE GUARDS! AND YOU ARE THE JEWEL COLLECTOR! ONLY AN EXPERT WOULD HAVE SELECTED THE JEWELS YOU TOOK!

WHEN ONE OF YOUR THUGS LEFT A WHITE BUTTON BEHIND... THE REST WAS EASY! NO ONE SUSPECTED A MILKMAN, BUT A MILKMAN WAS ALWAYS AROUND!
TOO BAD YOU CAN'T REPORT YOUR FINDINGS! WHEN THIS THERMOMETER READS 145 DEGREES, YOU AND THE KID ARE GOING INTO THE VAT! GRADE A PASTEURIZED CORPSES.
BUT BATMAN HOLDS A DANGEROUS ACE! THE LIVE-STEAM HOSE FOR CLEANING THE VATS!
NOT SO FAST, WINTHROP! DON'T MOVE, ANYONE! ONE STEP AND YOU'LL LOOK LIKE STUFFED SHIRTS IN A STEAM LAUNDRY!
YEOW! IF HE TURNS THAT KNOB, WE'RE GONERS!
BOYS!
LET ME OUTA HERE!
WHILE THE CROOKS FLEE IN CONFUSION, THE CRIME FIGHTERS WORK SWIFTLY TO FREE THEMSELVES!
RUN! HE'LL STEAM US LIKE CLAMS!
THIS IS OUR ONLY CHANCE, ROBIN! BUT IF WE DON'T HURRY, WE'LL BE SCALDED TO DEATH.
..GEE! BATMAN... I'M TRYING! THERE-GOT IT!
BURSTING OUT OF THEIR BONDS-THE FIGHTING FURIES RACE AFTER THE FLEEING CROOKS!
PHEW! IT WAS GETTING STUFFY IN THERE!
THERE THEY GO-TOWARD THE BARN!
I'LL CLIMB TO THE TOP OF THE SILO AND KEEP MY EYES PEELED!
THE DOOR'S LOCKED TIGHT! OHO! BETTER HURRY! THEY'RE NOT LOOKING FOR A NEEDLE IN THAT HAY... MUST BE A TRAP DOOR!
LIKE A GIANT, WINGED BIRD OF NIGHT, THE ACROBATMAN CRASHES THROUGH THE BARN WINDOW!
...WITH THE GREATEST OF EASE!
HELP! THERE ARE BATS IN HERE!
TWO HEELS GET THE BOOT!
OUCH!
12

AS THE MIGHTY BATMAN FIGHTS WITH THE STRENGTH OF MANY...
HEAVE HO! AWAY WE GO!
UGH! GLUG!
A YOUNG DYNAMO MAKES A SURPRISE ENTRANCE!
WHEE! THIS IS BETTER THAN THE CHUTE-THE-CHUTE!
AS DAYLIGHT GROWS STRONGER, THE UNEVEN FIGHT IS FINISHED!
LEAVE THOSE CHAPS ON ICE TILL THE POLICE GET HERE! WINTHROP AND THE GEMS COME ALONG WITH US AS A PRESENT FOR THE COMMISSIONER!
(PUFF) (PUFF) THESE CROOKS MUST CARRY LEAD WEIGHTS ON 'EM!
A GLORIOUS SUNRISE FILLS THE SKY — AS THE VALIANT VICTORS WING HOMEWARD!
LATER --- IN POLICE COMMISSIONER GORDON'S OFFICE...
IMAGINE A MAN LIKE WINTHROP IN A CRIME RACKET! WHO'D SUSPECT HIM — OR THE MILKMEN?
THAT'S WHY IT WAS SUCH A NEAT SET-UP! WINTHROP PROBABLY BOUGHT THE SMALL DAIRY UNDER AN ASSUMED NAME, AND IF ANYONE FOUND OUT IT WAS HIS — WHY, HE COULD SAY IT WAS A HOBBY!
I JUST CHECKED OVER WINTHROP'S BOOKS FOR THE MILK COMPANY, THERE'S A LARGE FUND SHORTAGE HERE!
THAT EXPLAINS A LOT! HE MUST HAVE GAMBLED WITH THE COMPANY'S MONEY — AND HAD TO MAKE GOOD! HE SPENT EVERY CENT HE HAD ON COLLECTING JEWELS!
BACK IN THE WAYNE MANSION...
I SEE BY THE PAPERS THAT BATMAN AND ROBIN CAUGHT THOSE 'EARLY BIRD' CROOKS!
IT'S SORT OF IRONICAL, BRUCE! I BET DRINKING THIS STUFF IS WHAT MADE BATMAN AND ROBIN STRONG ENOUGH TO FIGHT THOSE MILKMEN ROBBERS! MMM.. SURE IS GOOD!
THE END

THE BIG EIGHT!

Tops in monthly comic magazines!

Featuring
BATMAN
and ROBIN

A SUPERMAN DC PUBLICATION

A SUPERMAN DC PUBLICATION

NOW ON SALE EVERYWHERE!

FANTASTIC FACTS

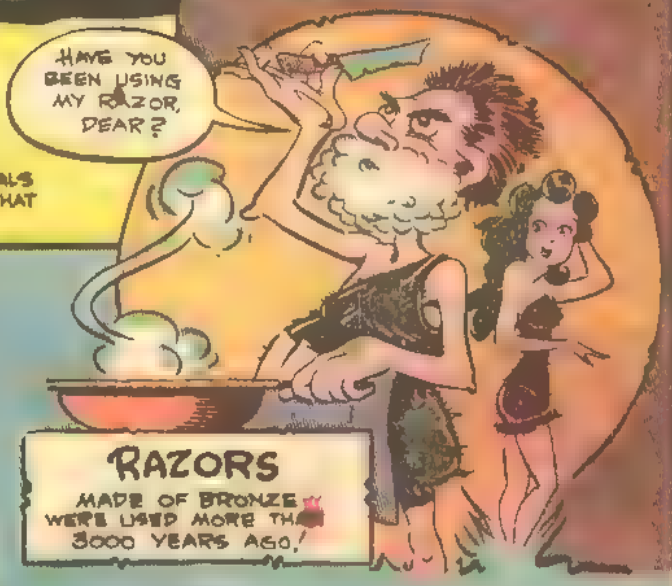
GHOST SHIP!

THE "MARY CELESTE" SET SAIL FROM NEW YORK BOUND FOR GENOA IN NOV. 1872 ---- ON DEC 5, A BRITISH SHIP SIGHTED HER OFF HER COURSE ---THE BRITISH CAPTAIN BOARDED HER AND FOUND EVERYTHING IN *PERFECT CONDITION* BUT *NOT A SINGLE PERSON ABOARD!* HER LOG SHOWED NO HINT OF TRAGEDY- CLOTHES WERE HUNG UP TO DRY AND MEALS WERE PARTLY FINISHED! TO THIS DAY NOBODY KNOWS WHAT HAPPENED TO THE CREW OF THE "MARY CELESTE"!

THE PARIS POLICE DEPT ONCE KEPT A FORCE OF

RAT-CATCHING CATS

WHICH A GIRL RENTED OUT FOR A SMALL FEE!

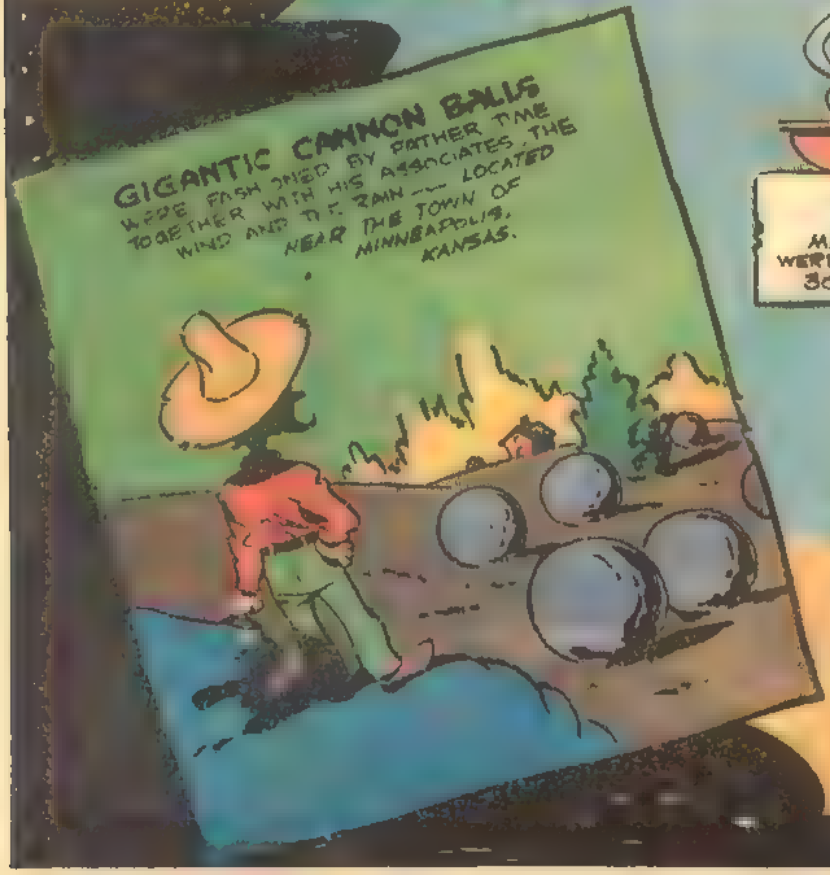


RAZORS

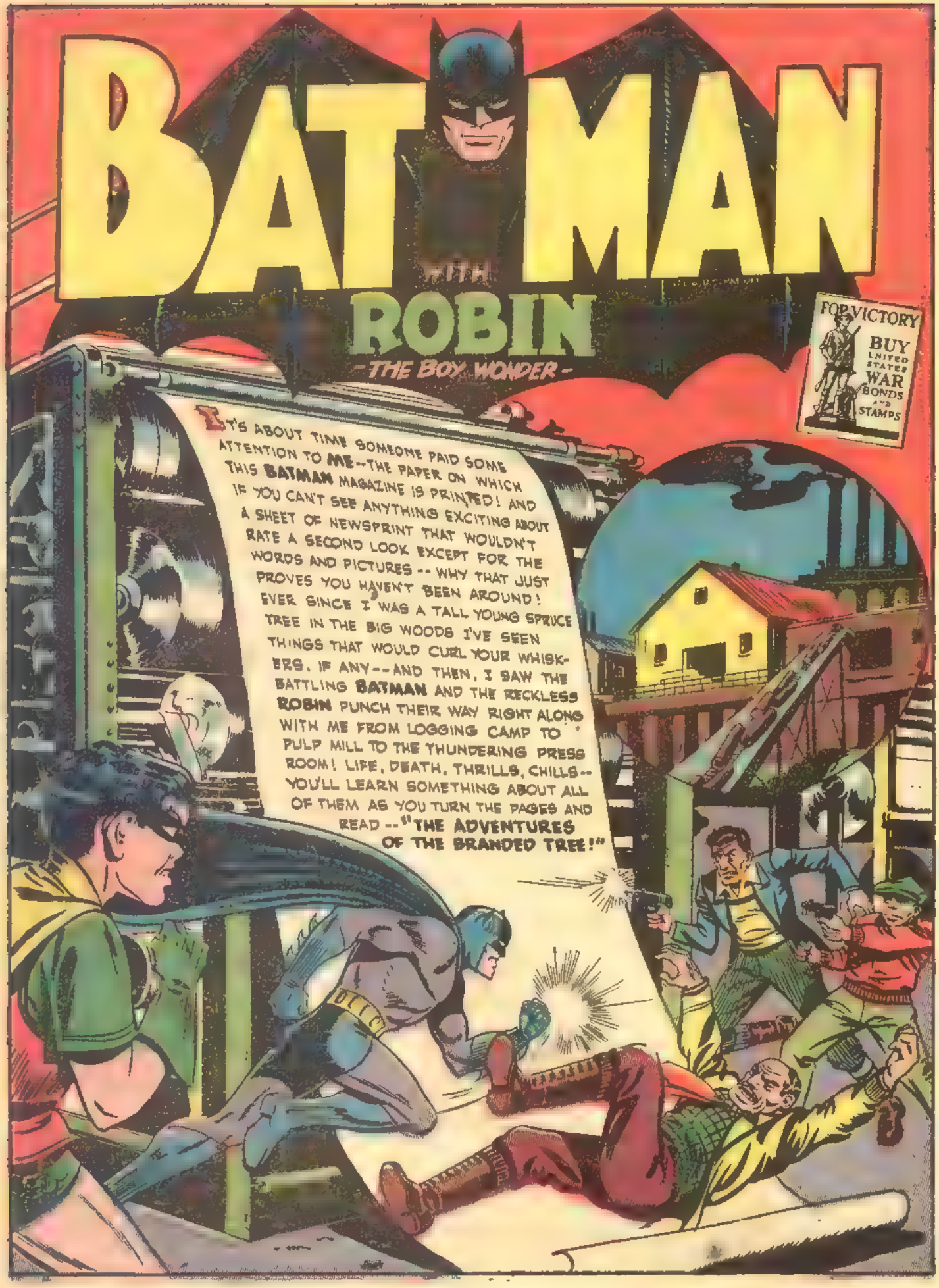
MADE OF BRONZE WERE USED MORE THAN 3000 YEARS AGO!

GIGANTIC CANNON BALLS

WERE FASHIONED BY FATHER TIME TOGETHER WITH HIS ASSOCIATES, THE WIND AND THE RAIN --- LOCATED NEAR THE TOWN OF MINNEAPOLIS, KANSAS.



THE "BARREL CACTUS" OF ARIZONA IS THE CAMEL OF THE PLANT WORLD ---IT STORES UP ENOUGH WATER FROM A RAIN TO LAST FOR MONTHS OR EVEN YEARS!


BATMAN
WITH
ROBIN
-THE BOY WONDER-
FOR VICTORY
BUY
UNITED STATES
WAR
BONDS
AND
STAMPS
IT'S ABOUT TIME SOMEONE PAID SOME ATTENTION TO ME--THE PAPER ON WHICH THIS BATMAN MAGAZINE IS PRINTED! AND IF YOU CAN'T SEE ANYTHING EXCITING ABOUT A SHEET OF NEWSPRINT THAT WOULDN'T RATE A SECOND LOOK EXCEPT FOR THE WORDS AND PICTURES -- WHY THAT JUST PROVES YOU HAVEN'T BEEN AROUND! EVER SINCE I WAS A TALL YOUNG SPRUCE TREE IN THE BIG WOODS I'VE SEEN THINGS THAT WOULD CURL YOUR WHISKERS, IF ANY--AND THEN, I SAW THE BATTLING BATMAN AND THE RECKLESS ROBIN PUNCH THEIR WAY RIGHT ALONG WITH ME FROM LOGGING CAMP TO PULP MILL TO THE THUNDERING PRESS ROOM! LIFE, DEATH, THRILLS, CHILLS--YOU'LL LEARN SOMETHING ABOUT ALL OF THEM AS YOU TURN THE PAGES AND READ -- "THE ADVENTURES OF THE BRANDED TREE!"

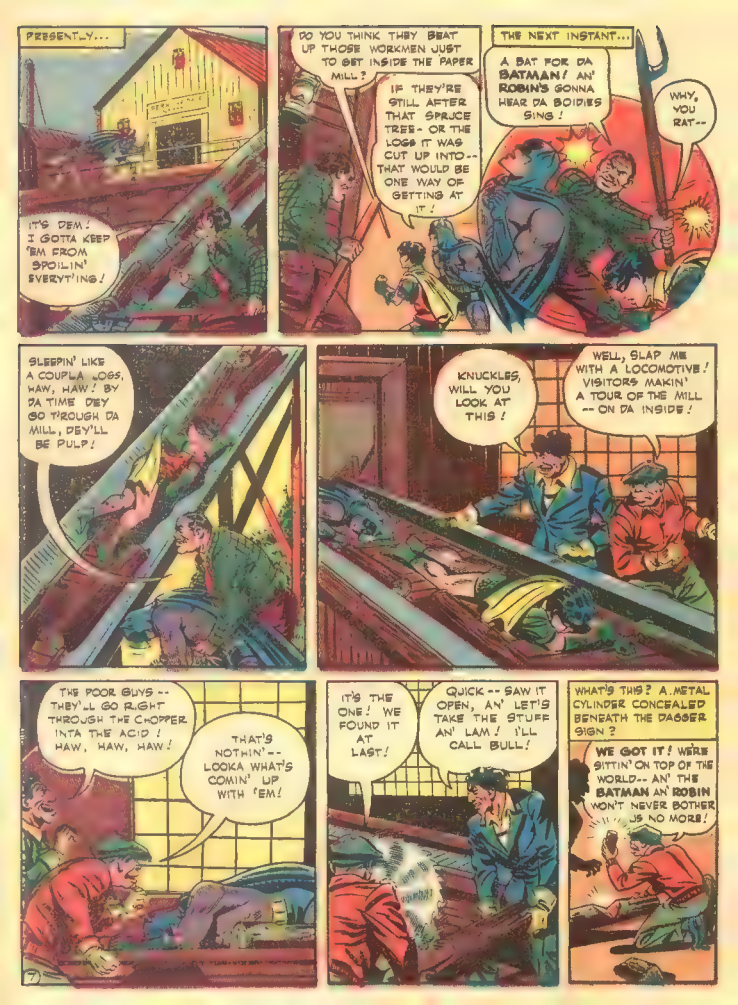
MARK WELL THIS TREE WITH THE DAGGER-SHAPED SCAR CUT DEEP IN THE LIVING WOOD..
... FOR HERE BEGINS A DEADLY NORTH WOODS DRAMA OF RAZOR-EDGED WITS AND STEEL-HARD WEAPONS !
AH, WEEL--'TWILL MAKE GOOD PULP PAPER AT THE MILL, FOR A' IT'S UGLY CAR-R-R-RVIN' !
AY WONDER WHAT THIS DAGGER MARK BANE MEAN, SCOTTY ?
FOOSH, YONSON--I DINNA DOOBT IT MEANS NAETHIN' AT ALL ! SOME DAFT HUNTSMAN HACKED IT HAVIN' NA BETTER WOR-R-R-RK !
AY BANE GLAD HUNTING SEASON OVER! WOODS 'OT BANE SAFE FOR LUMBER-YACKS WHEN CITY FALLERS YUMP AROUND SHOOTING EVERYTHING IN SIGHT!
BUT OLAF YONSON HAS SPOKEN TOO SOON-- FOR A CERTAIN BREED OF 'CITY FALLERS' DOES NOT RECOGNIZE ANY CLOSED SEASON ON ITS ILLICIT HUNTING EXPEDITIONS...
IT'S RIGHT CLOSE BY... KEEP YOUR EYES SKINNED FOR THE SIGN OF THE DAGGER!
LISSEN--I HEAR SOMEBODY CHOPPIN'!
WHY'D THEY HAFTA PICK THAT TREE OUT OF THE WHOLE FOREST? YA DON'T THINK THEY'RE WISE, DO YA, BULL?
SHUT UP AND GET READY TO PLUG 'EM WIT' DAT SILENCED RIFLE! WE'LL DO OUR TINKIN' AFTER WE'VE FINISHED DIS JOB!
A MUFFLED POP-- AND A STEEL-JACKETED SLUG BORES INTO A MAN'S DEFENSELESS BACK!
AAAA-A-A-A...
EH ? MON, WHAT AILS YE ?
REACH FOR DA SKY, OR YA'LL GET A TASTE O' DA SAME !
WHY, YE MUR-R-R-RDERIN' SONS O' SATAN--YE'LL NA HAE THE SATISFACTION O' SEEIN' THE PRIDE O' GLEN CAMERON GROVEL AFORE YER COWARDLY WEAPONS!
I'LL BREAK YE WITH BARE FISTS- AAA-A-A-A...
OKAY--YA'RE ASKIN' FOR IT!
WHY DIDN'T YA LET ME USE THIS ? THEY'LL HEAR THAT SHOT AT THE LOGGIN' CAMP!

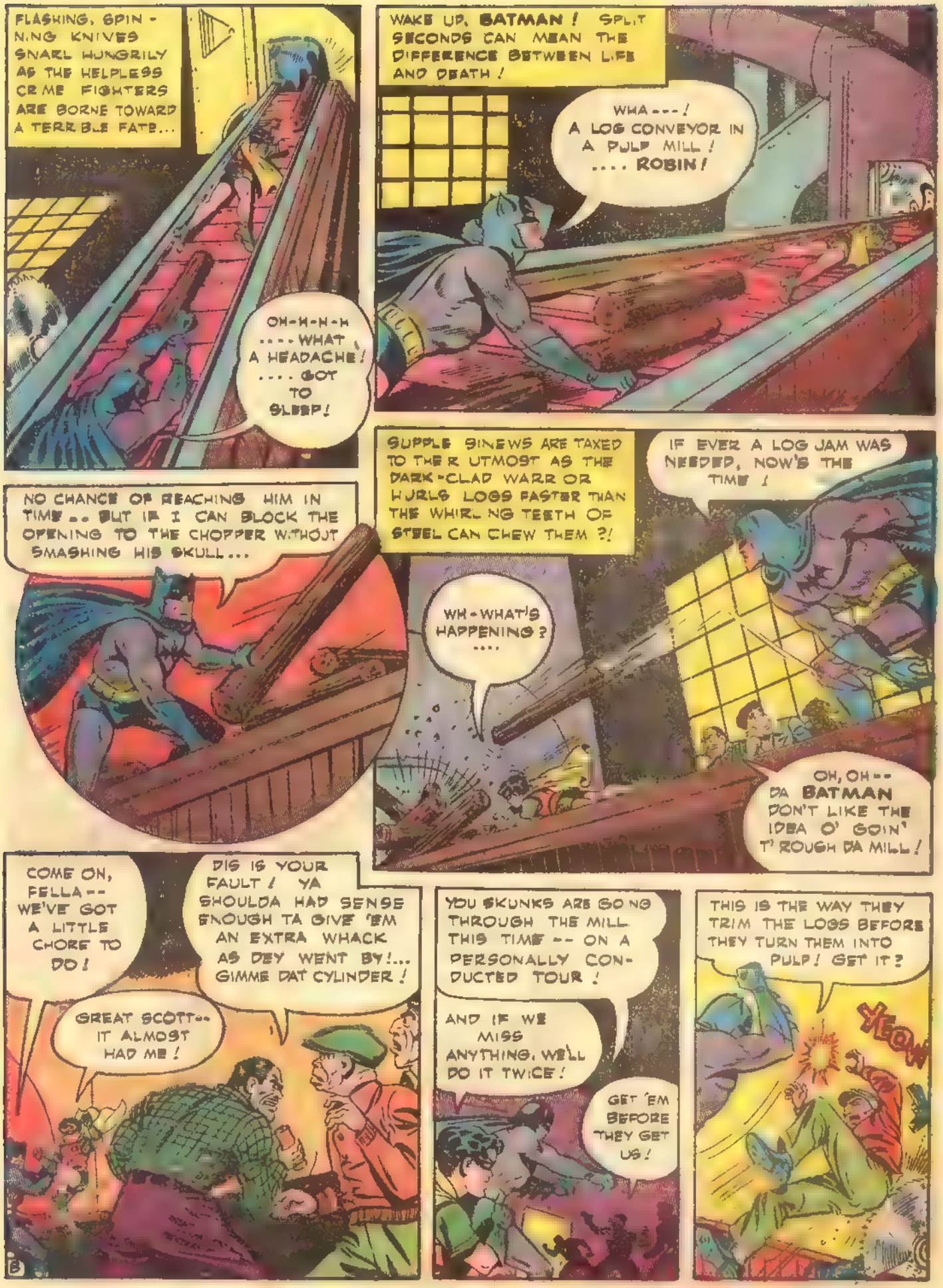
NOT FAR AWAY, TWO OTHER 'CITY FALLERS' HAVE INVADED THE BIG WOODS IN SEARCH OF NOTHING MORE SINISTER THAN RELAXATION --
A LOT OF HELP YOU ARE!
PLAY HIM EASY! DON'T LET HIM BREAK YOUR TACKLE!
-- BRUCE WAYNE, WEALTHY SPORTSMAN, AND HIS YOUNG WARD, DICK GRAYSON!
PRETTY, EH? ... LISTEN!
CRACK!
A SHOT! SOME HUNTER MUST BE STRETCHING THE SEASON!
HUNTER, NOTHING! THAT WAS A .45 CALIBER PISTOL -- AND A PISTOL SHOT USUALLY MEANS TROUBLE!
AND TROUBLE MEANS ACTION FOR US!
OUTER GARMENTS FLUNG ASIDE, THE PAIR BECOMES THE FAMOUS CRIME CRUSHING TEAM OF BATMAN AND ROBIN!
I STILL CAN'T FIGURE OUT WHY YOU INSIST ON DRAGGING THESE RODS ALONG!
I CAME UP HERE TO FISH, ROBIN -- AND I'M NOT GOING TO MISS ANY CHANCES!
LOOK -- CITY GANGSTERS! AND THERE ARE TWO LUMBERJACKS ON THE GROUND, DEAD OR WOUNDED!
HERE'S WHERE I CATCH A WHOPPER!
A SINGING REEL PAYS OUT A THIN SILKEN LINE AND...
YIPE! I'M SHOT!
WHAT'S HAPPENIN'?
BEFORE THE SHOCK OF THE SURPRISE HAS WORN OFF, TWIN FIGURES OF FIGHTING FURY CHARGE THE CRIMINALS!
GOOD FISHING UP HERE -- AND GOOD HUNTING!
WHA -- ! DA BATMAN!
AN' ROBIN!

WELL, WELL -- IF IT ISN'T A FELLOW-CITIZEN OF GOTHAM CITY -- BULL BEETON!
I WISH I WAS SOMEBODY ELSE!
TOO BAD I DIDN'T WEAR MY HOBNAILED BOOTS!
A STORM OF SNARLING SLUGS DRIVES THE DYNAMIC DUO TO COVER...
IF I GET THE BATMAN, I'M GONNA HAVE HIM STUFFED FOR A TROPHY!
THIS WILL BE GOOD-IF IT WORKS!
HAW, HAW! MISSED ME!
A PERFECT CAST -- BUT I'D HATE TO HAVE TO EAT WHAT WE CAUGHT!
TWANG!
OW! WHO THREW THAT STICK O' DYNAMITE?
WE GOTTA BEAT IT!
AFTER THEM, ROBIN!
YA'RE TELLIN' ME!
A LOAD OF SAWN LOGS, LEFT BY WORKMEN AT THE SOUND OF THE DINNER BELL, BLOCKS THE TRAIL...
MAKE IT FAST, YOUSE GUYS! I GOT AN IDEA HOW TO STOP THE BATMAN AND ROBIN!
I HOPE YA AIN'T KIDDIN'!
YOU'D SAVE YOURSELVES A LOT OF TROUBLE BY GIVING UP NOW, BULL!
I'D SAVE TROUBLE, ALL RIGHT--

--- TROUBLE FOR YOU!
O-O-O-O-O
MINUTES LATER...
ROBIN! SAY SOMETHING! ARE YOU ALL RIGHT, FELLA?
HUH?... HANG ONTO MY HEAD, BATMAN --- IT WON'T STOP SPINNING!
LATER, WHEN FIRST AID HAS BEEN ADMINISTERED TO THE ONE LIVING VICTIM OF THE COWARDLY SHOOTING...
THAT'LL HAVE TO DO TILL WE CAN GET YOU TO A DOCTOR, SCOTTY!
THEY GOT AWAY AND OLAF IS DEAD! HAVEN'T YOU ANY IDEA WHAT THEY WERE AFTER?
WEEL, YE MIGHT TAKE A LOOK AT THOT TREE WE WERE WOR-R-KIN' ON... IT WAS MARKED WI' A DAGGER, YE KEN!
BUT THE DAGGER-BRANDED TREE HAS ALREADY STARTED IT'S JOURNEY TO THE MILL...
OUI, M'SIEU BATMAN -- PIERRE AN' I SEE ZE MARK BUT WE SINK NOZZING OF ,EET!
WE FEENISH CUTTING DOWN ZE TREE, AN' SAW EET UP, AN' SEND EET DOWN TO ZE RIVER!
THEN WE'D BETTER LOOK IN THE RIVER!
YOU WOULD NOT FIND IT EEN A LIFETIME, M'SIEU'! ZERE ARE T'OUSAN'S OF LOGS, EACH EXACTLY LIKE ZE OZZER!
BATMAN. IT LOOKS AS IF WE'RE STUCK IN A LOG JAM!
AT THAT VERY MOMENT...
ALL WE CAN DO IS TO TRY TO TRACK DOWN BULL AND HIS MOB!
LOG JAM IS RIGHT! IT WOULD BE IMPOSSIBLE TO TURN OVER EVERY STICK IN THAT MESS LOOKING FOR A DAGGER CARVING!
ANYWAY, THESE FISH DIDN'T GET AWAY -- AND THEY TASTE TWICE AS GOOD NOW THAT WE'VE WORKED UP AN APPETITE!
DO THEY?... I'VE BEEN SO BUSY, TRYING TO THINK WHY GANGSTERS SHOULD BE INTERESTED IN ONE PARTICULAR TREE OUT OF A MILLION, I HAVEN'T NOTICED!
WHAT STRANGE SECRET, SYMBOLIZED BY THIS SINISTER SIGN OF THE DAGGER HAS LURED DESPERATE MEN FROM THEIR UNDERWORLD HAUNTS TO COMMIT MURDER IN THE DEEP WOODS! LET'S SEE IF WE CAN FIND A CLUE IN THE GRIM EVENTS YET TO COME...

THAT NIGHT, VIOLENCE FLARES IN A NEARBY TOWN...
SURE I WORK ON THE LOGS AT THE PAPER MILL! WHY? ...OOOoo...
YA MEAN YA USED TO WORK THERE!
COME ON -- WE GOTTA KNOCK A COUPLE MORE OFFA DA PAYROLL!
THE FOLLOWING MORNING...
EMPLOYMENT OFFICE
YOU'RE ALL HIRED! THREE OF OUR LOG HANDLERS MET WITH MYSTERIOUS ACCIDENTS LAST NIGHT AND ARE LAID OFF!
AIN'T THAT A COINCIDENCE?
ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS MAKE SURE THE LOGS KEEP GOING UP THAT BELT INTO THE MILL!
WOTTA BREAK! WE CAN'T MISS DA LOG WE'RE AFTER!
YOUR JOB IS TO WATCH THE LOGS AS THEY MOVE TOWARD THE CHOPPER, AND TAKE OUT THE ONES WITH KNOTS OR ROTTED PLACES, CUT THE SPOILED PLACES OUT WITH THIS SAW AND PUT THE LOGS BACK!
IT SOUNDS FASCINATIN'!
HE'D BE CHOPPED TO BITS, AND WH SKED UP THAT SUCTION P PE INTO THE DIGESTER VAT, WHERE SULPHLRIC ACID WOULD FINISH THE JOB!
CHEE -- A GUY WOULDN'T STAND MUCH CHANCE IF HE FELL IN!
FROM THE DIGESTER, THE SOLUTION GOES THROUGH BLEACHING AND TINTING VATS AND INTO THE PAPER MACHINES! IT COMES OUT OF THE ROLLERS AT THE END AS FIN SHED PAPER!
DO TELL!
MEANWHILE, AT THE LOCAL POLICE STAT ON...
NO, I AIN'T SEEN NO SUSPICIOUS CHARACTERS -- BUT SOMEBODY BEAT UP THREE O' THE PAPER MILL WORKERS AN' SENT 'EM TO THE HOSPITAL LAST N GHT!
HMMM--THAT MEANS THE PAPER MILL WILL HAVE TO HIRE THREE NEW MEN! I GET THE P.CTURE!
6

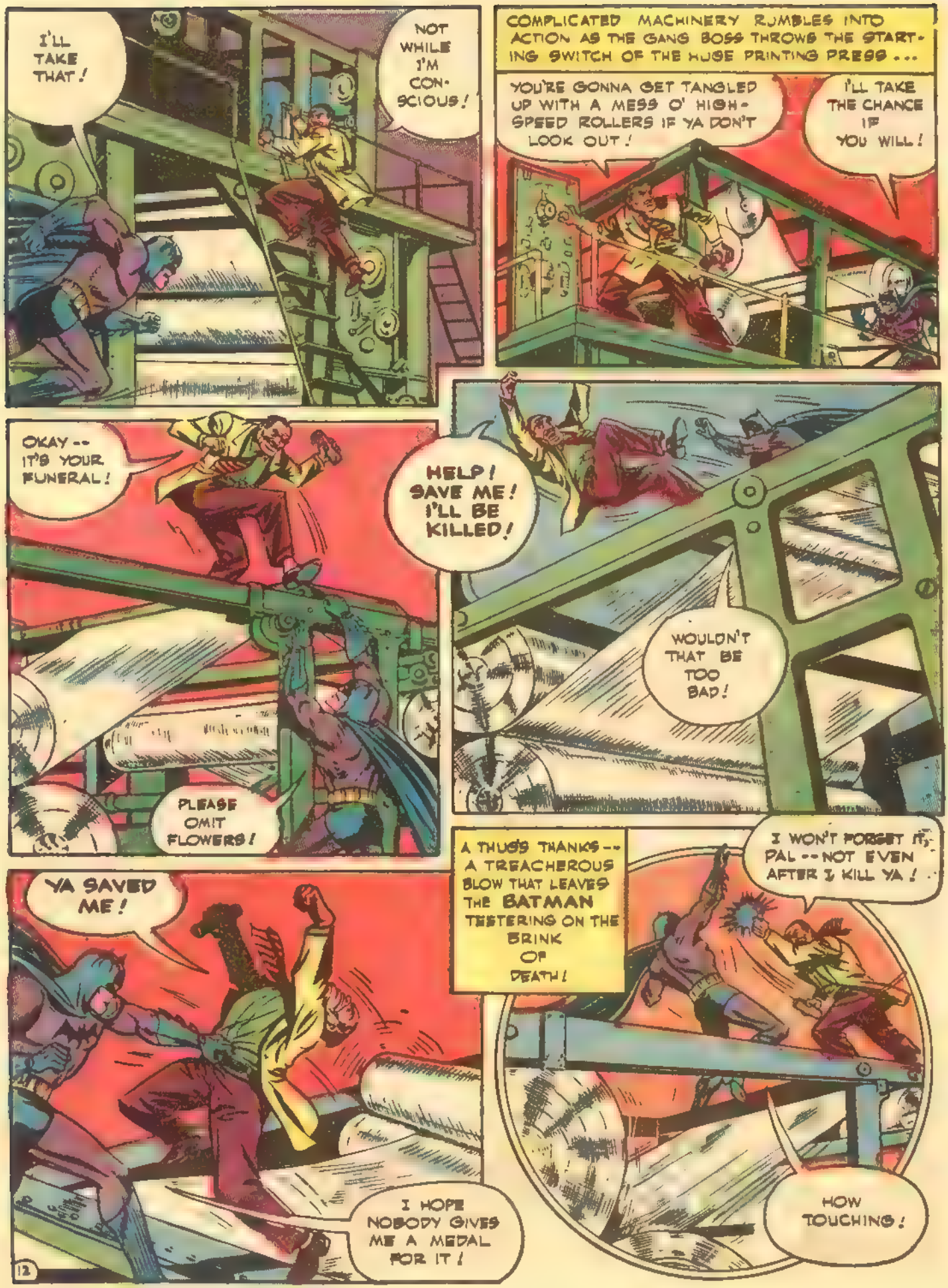

PRESENT_LY...
IT'S DEM! I GOTTA KEEP 'EM FROM SPOILIN' EVERYTHING!
DO YOU THINK THEY BEAT UP THOSE WORKMEN JUST TO GET INSIDE THE PAPER MILL?
IF THEY'RE STILL AFTER THAT SPRUCE TREE - OR THE LOGS IT WAS CUT UP INTO -- THAT WOULD BE ONE WAY OF GETTING AT IT!
THE NEXT INSTANT...
A BAT FOR DA BATMAN! AN' ROBIN'S GONNA HEAR DA BOIDIES SING!
WHY, YOU RAT--
SLEEPIN' LIKE A COUPLA LOGS, HAW, HAW! BY DA TIME DEY GO TROUGH DA MILL, DEY'LL BE PULP!
KNUCKLES, WILL YOU LOOK AT THIS!
WELL, SLAP ME WITH A LOCOMOTIVE! VISITORS MAKIN' A TOUR OF THE MILL -- ON DA INSIDE!
THE POOR GUYS -- THEY'LL GO RIGHT THROUGH THE CHOPPER INTA THE ACID! HAW, HAW, HAW!
THAT'S NOTHIN'-- LOOKA WHAT'S COMIN' UP WITH 'EM!
IT'S THE ONE! WE FOUND IT AT LAST!
QUICK -- SAW IT OPEN, AN' LET'S TAKE THE STUFF AN' LAM! I'LL CALL BULL!
WHAT'S THIS? A METAL CYLINDER CONCEALED BENEATH THE DAGGER SIGN?
WE GOT IT! WE'RE SITTIN' ON TOP OF THE WORLD-- AN' THE BATMAN AN' ROBIN WON'T NEVER BOTHER US NO MORE!
7


FLASHING, SPINNING KNIVES SNARL HUNGRILY AS THE HELPLESS CRIME FIGHTERS ARE BORNE TOWARD A TERRIBLE FATE...
OH-H-H-H .... WHAT A HEADACHE! .... GOT TO SLEEP!
WAKE UP, BATMAN! SPLIT SECONDS CAN MEAN THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN LIFE AND DEATH!
WHA---! A LOG CONVEYOR IN A PULP MILL! .... ROBIN!
NO CHANCE OF REACHING HIM IN TIME.. BUT IF I CAN BLOCK THE OPENING TO THE CHOPPER WITHOUT SMASHING HIS SKULL...
SUPPLE SINEWS ARE TAXED TO THEIR UTMOST AS THE DARK-CLAD WARRIOR HURLS LOGS FASTER THAN THE WHIRLING TEETH OF STEEL CAN CHEW THEM?!
WH-WHAT'S HAPPENING? ....
IF EVER A LOG JAM WAS NEEDED, NOW'S THE TIME!
OH, OH-- DA BATMAN DON'T LIKE THE IDEA O' GOIN' T' ROUGH DA MILL!
COME ON, FELLA-- WE'VE GOT A LITTLE CHORE TO DO!
DIS IS YOUR FAULT! YA SHOULDA HAD SENSE ENOUGH TA GIVE 'EM AN EXTRA WHACK AS DEY WENT BY!... GIMME DAT CYLINDER!
GREAT SCOTT-- IT ALMOST HAD ME!
YOU SKUNKS ARE GOING THROUGH THE MILL THIS TIME -- ON A PERSONALLY CONDUCTED TOUR!
AND IF WE MISS ANYTHING, WE'LL DO IT TWICE!
GET 'EM BEFORE THEY GET US!
THIS IS THE WAY THEY TRIM THE LOGS BEFORE THEY TURN THEM INTO PULP! GET IT?
YEOW
B

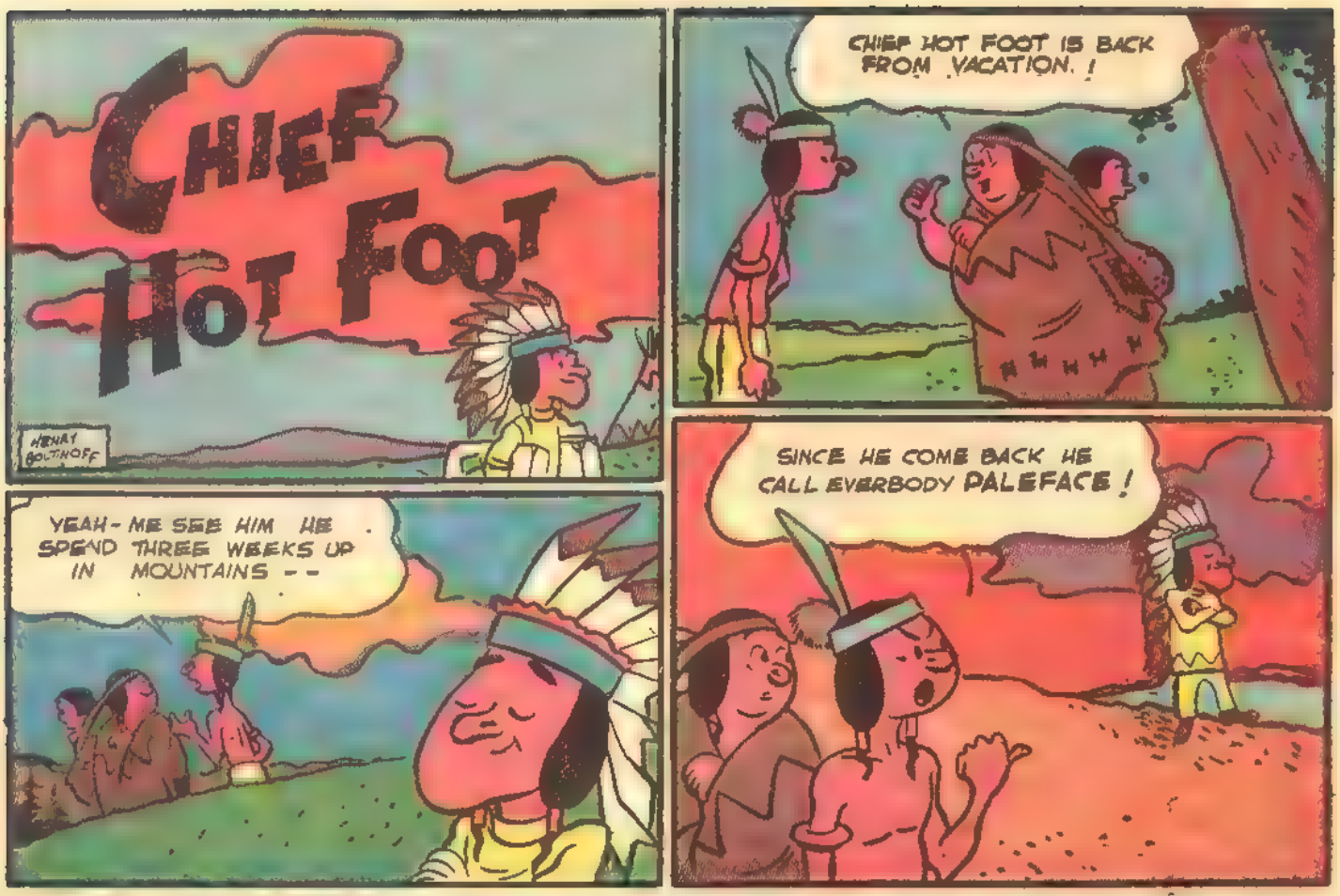
THIS IS WHERE THE PULP FIBERS, MIXED WITH WATER, ENTER THE PAPER-MAKING MACHINE! TAKE A GOOD LOOK!
OUCH! IT'S HOT!
HEY- YA GOTTA BE GROUND UP FINE IF YA WANTA STAY THERE!
WHEN THE PAPER FINALLY GOES THROUGH THESE 'CALENDER' ROLLERS, IT'S FINISHED-- LIKE YOU!
AN' I T'OUGHT BEIN' A CROOK WAS GONNA BE AN EASY LIFE!
DO IT AGAIN, BATMAN! THAT CALENDER NEEDS LOOSENIN'!
MEANWHILE, BULL BEATON IS DRIVEN TO TAKE DESPERATE MEASURES...
GOTHAM CITY PRINTING CO
IF I GET CAUGHT, I DON'T WANT DIS FOUND ON ME! AN' IF I GET AWAY, I CAN PICK IT UP AGAIN EASY!
WHAT HAPPENED TO BULL?
I DUNNO WOT DIS IS FOR, BUT I KNOW A GOOD WAY TO FIND OUT!
THERE HE GOES!
SUDDENLY...
LOOK OUT! THERE'S SULPHURIC ACID IN THAT STUFF!
WHY, THE LOWDOWN SNAKE!
SO LONG, DIMWITS! HA, HA!
BATMAN, YOU SAVED THE LIVES OF THE WORKERS! THOSE FUMES WOULD HAVE BEEN FATAL IF THEY'D KEPT SPREADING!
ARE YOU SURE (COUGH) THEY AREN'T STRONG ENOUGH (COUGH) TO BE FATAL ALREADY?
THEM THREE NEW MEN YOU HIRED JUST JUMPED IN YOUR CAR AND BEAT IT, MR. MATHERS!
GONE--BUT HE DIDN'T HAVE THAT CYLINDER WHEN HE RAN FROM US! MAYBE WE CAN FIND IT...
THE NERVE OF THEM!

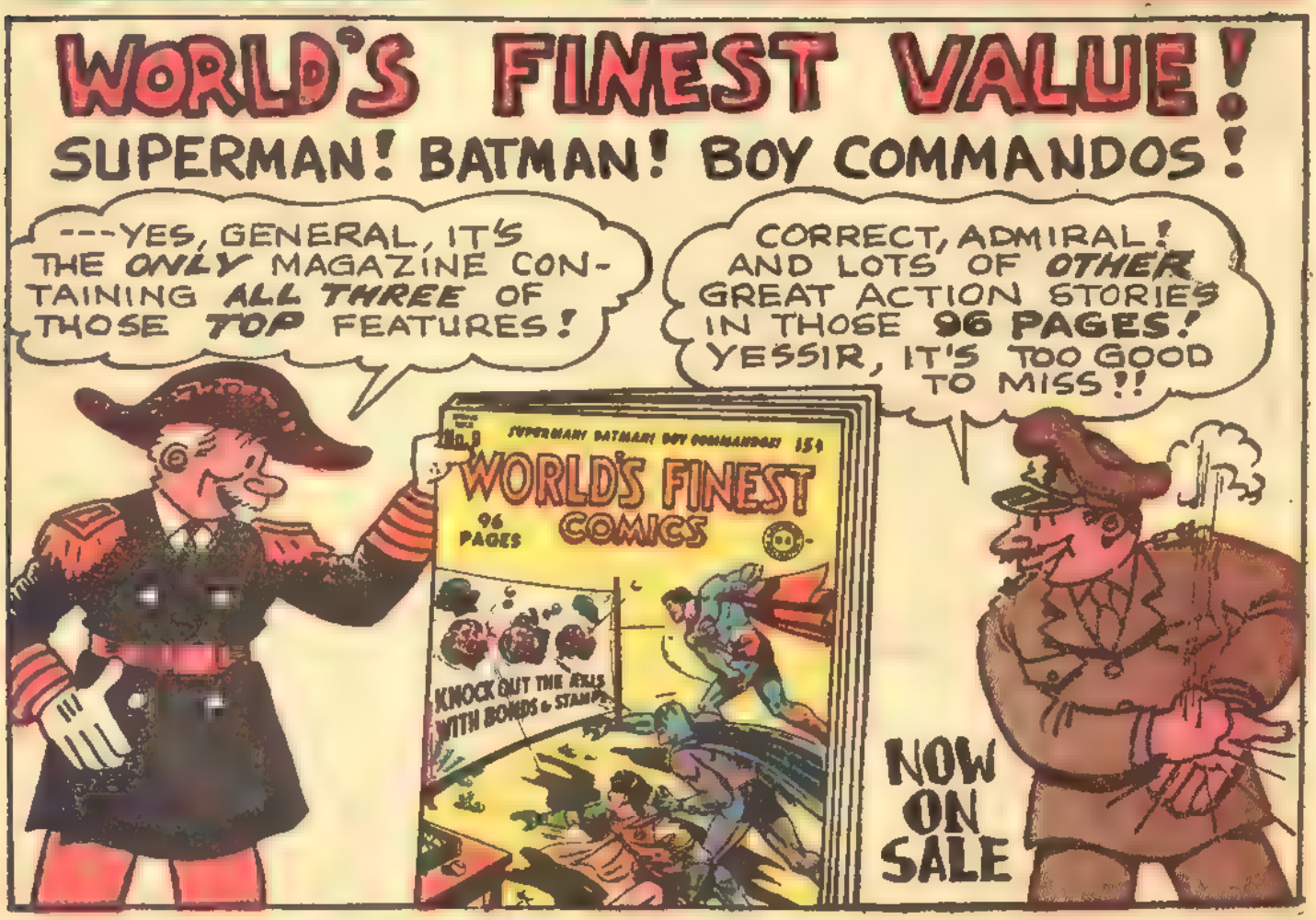
BUT A CAREFUL SEARCH FAILS TO REVEAL EITHER THE MYSTERIOUS CYLINDER OR THE FUGITIVE CRIMINALS --- AND TWO DAYS LATER ...
I THOUGHT THAT FISHING TRIP WOULD DO YOU GOOD, BRUCE -- BUT YOU'VE BEEN NERVOUS AS A CAT EVER SINCE WE GOT BACK!
I'LL GIVE YOU THREE GUESSES WHY!
I KNOW... IT BURNS ME UP, LOSING THOSE KILLERS TWICE IN A ROW AND NOT BEING ABLE TO FIND THAT CYLINDER THEY LEFT BEHIND!
THEY DIDN'T TAKE IT WITH THEM -- BUT I'M NOT SO SURE THEY LEFT IT UP THERE EITHER! I THINK BULL PUT SOMETHING EXTRA CLEVER OVER ON US!
PERKINS PAPER CO
NEWSPRINT FROM THE PERKINS MILL! MAYBE IT'S THE SAME WE SAW BEING MADE!
HUH? ... I WONDER...?
MIDNIGHT -- AND THE NIGHT WATCHMAN AT THE PRINTING PLANT HAS UNEXPECTED VISITORS...
TAKE US TA DA FREGS-ROOM, SEE? OR D'YA WANT SOMEBODY TA TAKE YA TA A CEMETERY?
D-DON'T SHOOT! I'LL T-TAKE YOU ANYWHERE YOU SAY!
AH -- HERE WE ARE! DA SMARTEST TRICK O' DA YEAR, IF I DO SAY IT MESELF!
OKAY, POP-TAKE A REST!
YOU'RE A GENIUS, BULL!
IT AIN'T HERE!
NOT HERE, EITHER... GOSH -- WHAT IF IT GOT LOST?
KEEP YER SHIRTS ON!
A FORTUNE! FROM NOW ON, WE'RE ALL BIG SHOTS!
I'M GONNA BUY A TICKET TO SOMEPLACE WHERE DA BATMAN WON'T NEVER CATCH UP WIT' ME!
I'M GONNA BUY ME A YACHT!

A GOOD IDEA, SQUIDGE -- BUT A TRIFLE LATE!
NOW LET'S GO OUT AN' CELEBRATE OUR -- HUH? ... DAT SHADDER ...
AM I GOIN' CRAZY -- OR DOES IT LOOK LIKE A BAT?
LIKE A GREAT BIRD OF PREY A MANTLED FIGURE SWOOPS -- THE BATMAN!
NO! NO! IT CAN'T BE TRUE!
LOOKS LIKE I'M JUST IN TIME!
BUT IT IS TRUE, MY FINE-FEATHERED FELONS!
A FEW OUNCES OF LEAD WILL TIP THE BALANCE OUR WAY!
IF I HAVEN'T FOGETTEN HOW I USED TO BIRL LOGS, MAYBE I CAN BREAK THIS UP!
WHAT YA DUCKIN' FOR, BATMAN? YA SCARED O' BULLETS?
ONLY WHEN BETTER MARKSMEN THAN YOU SHOOT THEM!
HEY, KID -- WATCH WHERE YOU'RE GOIN'! YOU'LL HURT SOMEBODY!
I'M JUST PLAYIN' STEAM-ROLLER!
NICE WORK, ROBIN!
OOPS -- SLIPS!
YOU TWO BACK FOR MORE? THIS'LL LAST YOU QUITE A WHILE!
OUCH! YA DONE THAT ON PURPOSE!


I'LL TAKE THAT!
NOT WHILE I'M CONSCIOUS!
COMPLICATED MACHINERY RUMBLES INTO ACTION AS THE GANG BOSS THROWS THE STARTING SWITCH OF THE HUGE PRINTING PRESS ...
YOU'RE GONNA GET TANGLED UP WITH A MESS O' HIGH-SPEED ROLLERS IF YA DON'T LOOK OUT!
I'LL TAKE THE CHANCE IF YOU WILL!
OKAY -- IT'S YOUR FUNERAL!
HELP! SAVE ME! I'LL BE KILLED!
WOULDN'T THAT BE TOO BAD!
PLEASE OMIT FLOWERS!
A THUG'S THANKS -- A TREACHEROUS BLOW THAT LEAVES THE BATMAN TESTERING ON THE BRINK OF DEATH!
I WON'T FORGET IT, PAL -- NOT EVEN AFTER I KILL YA!
YA SAVED ME!
I HOPE NOBODY GIVES ME A MEDAL FOR IT!
HOW TOUCHING!
12

THIS ONE WILL STOP YOU--
HUH?--SOMET'IN'S WRONG!
--AND THIS WILL STOP THE PRESS!
YIIII-1-1-1!
FIREWORKS AND EVERYTHING!
I HOPE YOU DON'T MIND!
TAKE IT! NOTTIN' 'S WOITH WHAT I BEEN GOIN' T'ROUGH!
INDUSTRIAL DIAMONDS, FOR POINTING TOOLS! THESE MUST BE THE ONES STOLEN IN THAT EXPRESS ROBBERY UP NORTH A COUPLE OF WEEKS AGO!
RIGHT! ME AN' DA BOYS SWIPED 'EM--BUT DA COPPERS CHASED US T'ROUGH DA WOODS, AN' WE HID DA SWAG IN DAT TREE SO IT WOULDN'T BE ON US IF WE WAS CAUGHT!
BUT LUCK WAS AGAINST US WHEN WE WENT BACK FOR 'EM! DEY WAS JUST STARTIN' TA CUT DOWN DA TREE FOR PAPER--AN' DEN YOUSE HAD TA SHOW UP!
DIAMONDS LIKE THESE ARE NEEDED IN AMERICA'S WAR EFFORT! WHEN A JUDGE FINDS OUT YOU'RE A TRAITOR, A THIEF AND MURDERER, HE'LL RETIRE YOU PERMANENTLY!
PRESENTLY...
ALL RIGHT WATCHMAN--CALL THE POLICE!
WELL, DUST ME OFF WITH DYNAMITE--THAT'S THE NEW BATMAN MAGAZINE!
THIS IS ONE ISSUE WE HAD PLENTY TO DO WITH! BESIDES FURNISHING THE ADVENTURE, WE WATCHED THE TREES CUT AND THE PAPER MADE AND DELIVERED--AND WERE THE FIRST READERS!
DON'T FORGET, BILL BEETON--HE STARTED EVERYTHING, INCLUDING THE PRESS!
THE END
WHAT'S MORE, GENTLE READER, MY ADVENTURES AS A SHEET OF PAPER HAVE HARDLY BEGUN! NOW THAT YOU HAVE FINISHED MY STORY, I'LL MOVE ON TO THE NEXT BATMAN FAN--AND THE NEXT--AND WHO CAN SAY WHAT FRIENDS I'LL MAKE AND WHAT THRILLING THINGS I'LL SEE BEFORE THE SALVAGE MAN STARTS ME OUT ON A BRAND NEW CAREER?


CHIEF HOT FOOT
HENRY BOLTHOFF
CHIEF HOT FOOT IS BACK FROM VACATION.!
AHHHH
YEAH - ME SEE HIM HE SPEND THREE WEEKS UP IN MOUNTAINS --
SINCE HE COME BACK HE CALL EVERBODY PALEFACE!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MOTIVE

by Eric Carter

IT was all figured out. Not a loophole, Spencer told himself exultantly. Just as he did every weekend, Junius would come up here to Spencer's lodge. But this weekend, because Junius, only three hours before, had found out about the shortages in the working capital, wouldn't be pleasure bent.

No, Spencer avowed, he'd be bent for death.

And why not? If Junius' lips were sealed, he, Spencer, would take over the company. The books could be changed after the funeral, and nobody would ever know.

A quarter of a million dollar theft! Spencer smiled, recalling the agitation earlier in the day when Junius had discovered the depredation. The fool—why hadn't he been content in handling his end of the business? Did he *have* to snoop into the books?

Spencer's lips tautened. It was a good thing he had managed to convince Junius to keep quiet and come out as usual. That story about knowing something was wrong, too, had allayed Junius' fears. He had agreed to come out as usual, for the weekend. He did not know that Death, and not Spencer, would be his host.

Wrapped now in the protective darkness of his parked car, Spencer looked down at the illuminated dial on his wrist watch. A quarter of nine. In a few moments, it would be time to start, to establish the alibi.

Spencer smile craftily. It had been a good idea to be seen in a neighboring town, making a purchase for his laboratory. After that, a breathtaking ride to make time to this spot. He had cut ten minutes off the normal time, had been willing to gamble against a cop tailing him.

And he had won. Luck was riding with him, Spencer told himself. Promptly at nine o'clock, Junius would ascend the long stone steps to the house. He would use the pocket flashlight he always insisted, grumpily, on shining to ascend the treacherous steps. Junius had always claimed the steps were inadequately lighted. "It's a wonder the law doesn't make you do something about your lights, Spencer."

The law! Sheriff Tate? Once more, Spencer smiled. That bumpkin wouldn't even realize that his friendship with Spencer would tend to make the latter's alibi the more plausible.

Spencer opened the window of his warmly-heated car, shivered as a blast of air struck him. Outside it was bitterly cold, the third day of the cold snap. Suddenly, Spencer went rigid as a piercing whistle reached his ears. It was the Moran tug on its homeward journey. It always reached the drawbridge at this time and, ten minutes later, was in its slip. Moran prided himself on keeping a schedule as rigid and inflexible as a railroad's.

Unmindful of the cold now, Spencer left the window open, looked at his watch. Another whistle reached his ear. That would be the tug safely through the drawbridge—and now Spencer could start back because he could say that he saw the tug in its slip at its regular time.

And when Spencer reached the house, he would find Junius dead!

Oh, it was ingenious, all right. Only a man like Spencer could have thought of it. Now, driving furiously along, he wondered

how he had. Forgetting to return the fountain pen he had taken from Junius' desk a few days ago had been another stroke of luck. The pen was now lying on one of the steps leading to the house. Junius' flash couldn't help picking it out, and Junius would bend down, pick it up, and there would be a terrific explosion.

Junius never would know that a wire ran from the pen to high explosives hidden behind the house entrance. And no one would be able to figure it out, because the whole town knew that Junius and Spencer were dealers in high explosives. Maybe, some might say, poor Mr. Junius was carrying a sample with him.

As simple as that! Spencer looked at his speedometer, slowed down the car. It was still a five minute drive to the house, and the time was one minute to nine. Despite his cold-blooded planning, Spencer felt a shiver run through him as the watch hand stole to nine.

And then he heard it. A single, powerful explosion, and far ahead a bright light illuminated the sky!

A half hour later, after having viewed the wreckage of his house, Spencer sat in Sheriff Tate's office, his head bowed, his face as haggard as he could make it. "It's horrible, horrible," he said huskily. "Poor Junius. He was a good friend as well as a fine partner." He turned reddened eyes to the angular-jawed Tate. "I—I—might have been there myself, except that I had to go into town to make some purchases."

"Here, here, Mr. Spencer," Tate said sympathetically, "you can't blame yourself. And I know how you feel. But it's a good thing for us you were there to tell us who that poor, blown-to-bits unfortunate was." He shook his head. "Mr. Junius was a fine man, an obliging fellow, too. I'm going to miss seeing him every weekend. We sure got along fine."

Through half-closed eyes, Spencer studied Tate's homely face. "Sure," he thought, "you both got along fine because you both had the same simple kind of mind. Neither of you would suspect me. Not you fools—you trust everyone." Aloud, he said:

"We'll both miss him, Sheriff, very much."

Tate nodded slowly, drummed on the desk with long, slender fingers. Something glinted from between his thumb and forefinger and as he extracted it, a puzzled frown came over his face. It was a small piece of metal, and he had been playing with it all the way back to the office. "What I can't understand," he said, "is why Mr. Junius should be packing explosives that dangerous around. He always seemed level-headed to me." He thrust the piece of metal at Spencer, and said: "I could have identified him by this, I guess, if you hadn't come along."

His eyes watched Spencer as the latter looked curiously at the metal.

But Spencer suppressed a start as he recognized the object. The clip from a fountain pen! With an effort he controlled himself, and his eyes and voice were steady as he said to the Sheriff: "What is it?"

Tate didn't answer. He seemed lost in thought. Then, suddenly, he said: "You say you didn't see Mr. Junius this week? You weren't in the office?"

"That's right," Spencer said, his eyes narrowing. No one had seen him when he had visited Junius at the plant. It had been night and he had stopped off after the theatre, used the private entrance. Junius had asked him to drop in for a minor consultation.

Now, he studied Tate covertly. What was this yokel driving at? He'd better put him right on that alibi.

"No, Sheriff," he said. "I haven't seen him. You know how cold it has been, too cold for going out. I do a lot of our work here. Tonight would have been our first meeting in a week." Glibly he went on, told of being in town, of driving back. "As a matter of fact," he said, "I saw the Moran tug going into its slip at the time of the explosion." He smiled to himself as he saw the furrows leave the Sherriff's forehead. And he knew that he had an air-tight alibi, because the Sherriff and everyone else was well aware of the time the tug always berthed.

Spencer sighed. "Poor Junius," he said. His fingers touched the pen clip. "I'd like to keep this, Sherriff," he said, "if you don't mind. To remember Junius by."

"It won't help," the Sheriff said. "That clip belongs to me!"

"To you?" Spencer's facial muscles tightened. What was this fellow talking about? And why were the Sheriff's eyes suddenly hostile? Why was he getting to his feet? What had slipped? Spencer tried to force a smile. "You're joking," he said lamely. Then his eyes almost popped from their sockets as he saw the Sheriff's gun, heard the words of condemnation.

"No, Spencer, I'm not fooling. This is my pen and Mr. Junius took it into the city last week to have it repaired for me. He said he expected you, and would ask you to bring it out."

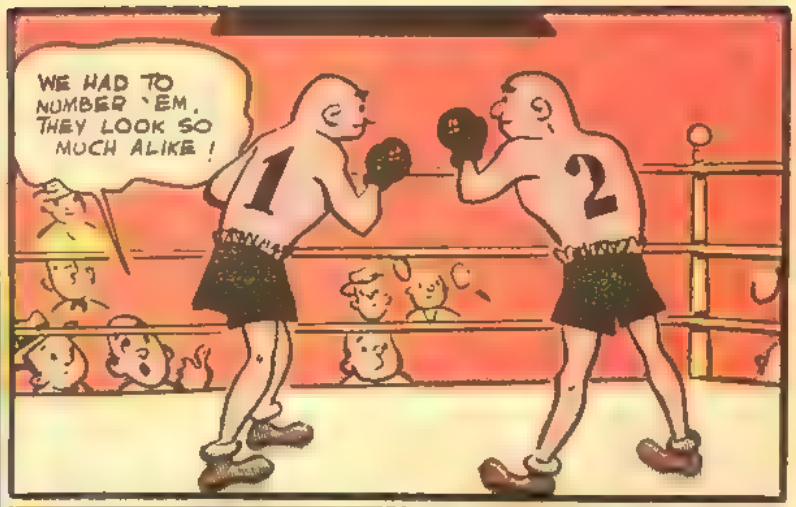
Sheriff Tate's hand darted out, a manacle snapped on the struggling Spencer's wrist as the county law officer forced the panting wild-eyed man into a chair.

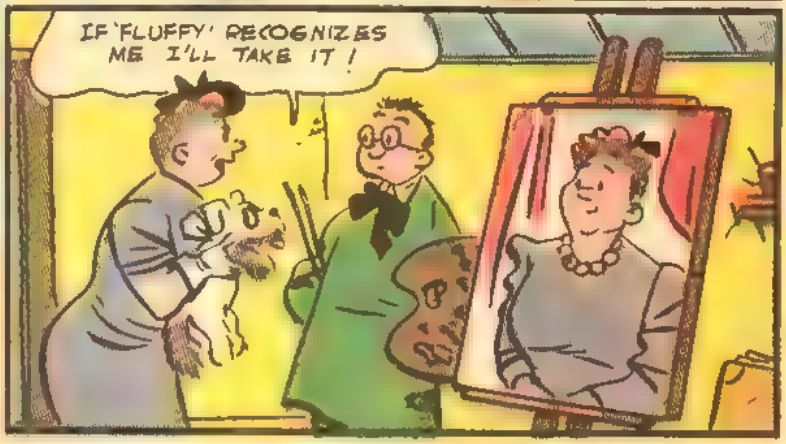
"I don't know what this pen's got to do with it," the Sheriff said slowly. "But I aim to find out." His usually humorous eyes were hard and cold. "Seems to me you went to a lot of trouble to get an alibi that didn't come off, Spencer."

Spencer's chest heaved. "You can't prove a thing," he cried. "You can't prove a thing. You're mad!"

"Mebbe," the Sheriff said. "But you can't prove you saw the Moran tug getting into its berth tonight, Spencer. Because it's still on the other side of the drawbridge and can't get through because the cold weather froze up the mechanism tonight! And mebbe tomorrow you and me are going to look into Junius' and Spencer's business and mebbe find a motive for murder!"

LAFFS





FAST AS A BULLET!

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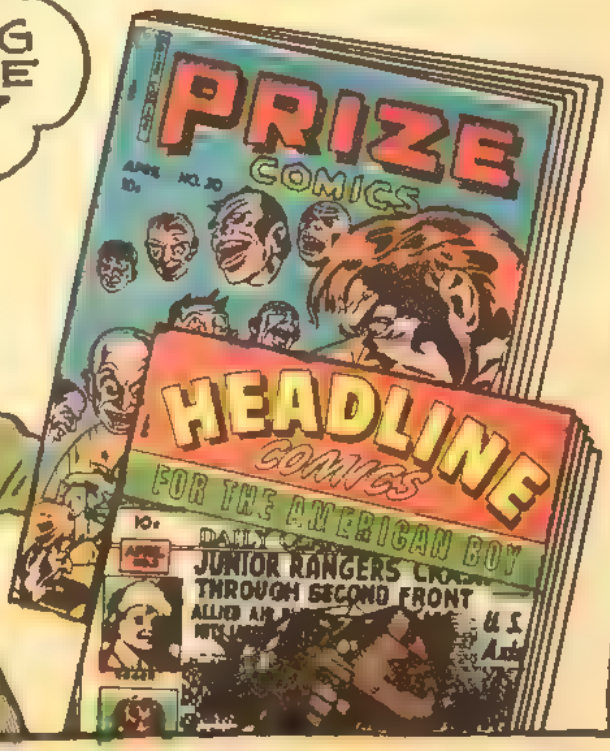
BROTHER--- I KNOW EVERY WORD OF THAT TO BE TRUE!



CLANCY
THE COP
THIS HEADACHE IS KILLING ME!
-AN OLD DESERTED HOUSE. MAYBE THE QUIETNESS INSIDE WILL HELP MY HEADACHE!
GOSH, IT'S DARK MAYBE THE PLACE IS HAUNTED!!
I'D HATE TO MEET UP WITH A GHOST!
CLONK
YEOW
SOMEONE HIT ME! LET ME OUTA HERE!
GEE - IN ALL THE EXCITEMENT MY HEADACHE DISAPPEARED..... THAT'S SWELL!!
IF IT WORKED ON ME IT OUGHT TO WORK ON OTHER PEOPLE!
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CLANCY THE COP

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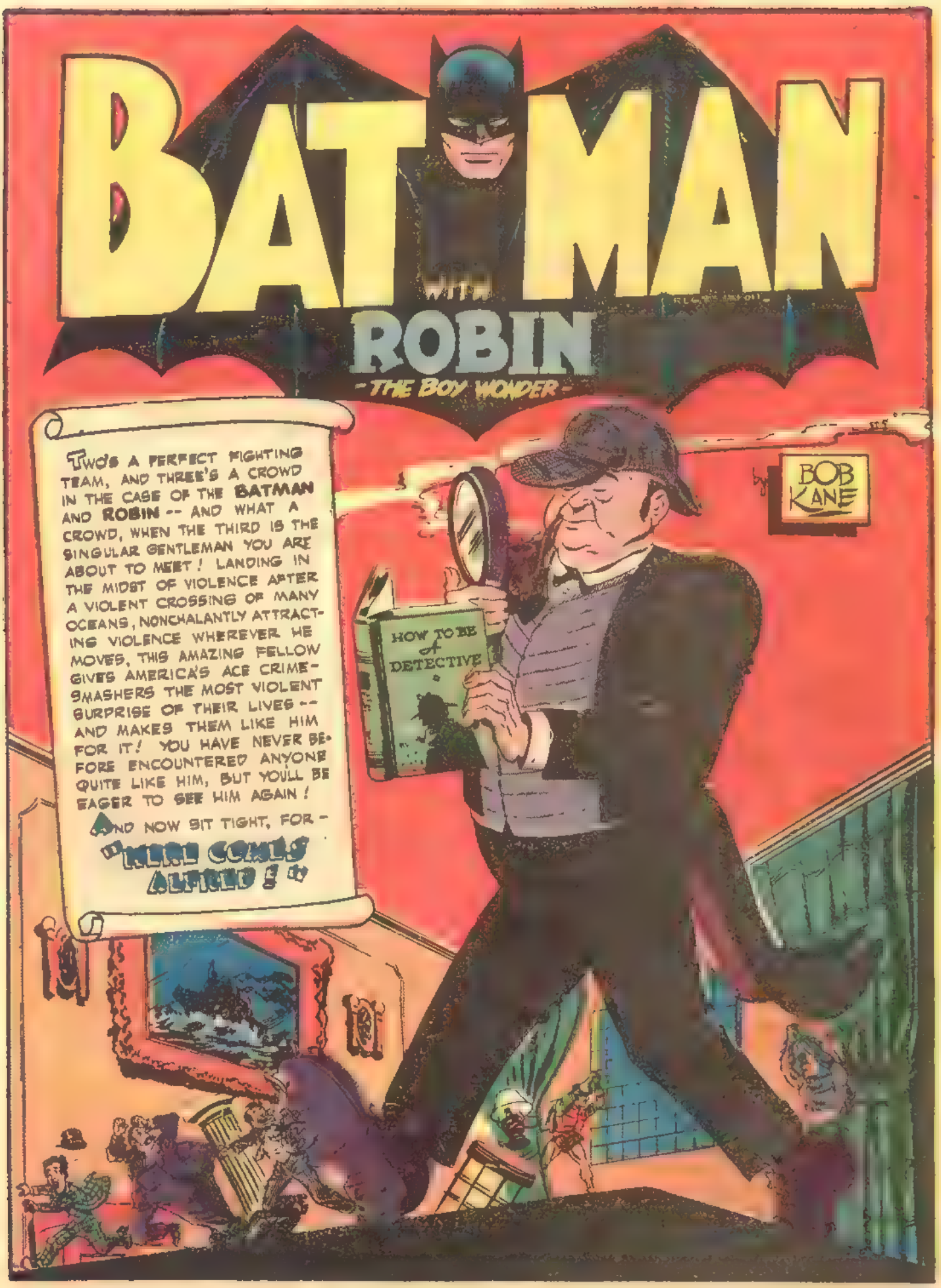

BATMAN
WITH
ROBIN
- THE BOY WONDER -
TWO'S A PERFECT FIGHTING TEAM, AND THREE'S A CROWD IN THE CASE OF THE BATMAN AND ROBIN -- AND WHAT A CROWD, WHEN THE THIRD IS THE SINGULAR GENTLEMAN YOU ARE ABOUT TO MEET! LANDING IN THE MIDST OF VIOLENCE AFTER A VIOLENT CROSSING OF MANY OCEANS, NONCHALANTLY ATTRACTING VIOLENCE WHEREVER HE MOVES, THIS AMAZING FELLOW GIVES AMERICA'S ACE CRIME-SMASHERS THE MOST VIOLENT SURPRISE OF THEIR LIVES -- AND MAKES THEM LIKE HIM FOR IT! YOU HAVE NEVER BEFORE ENCOUNTERED ANYONE QUITE LIKE HIM, BUT YOU'LL BE EAGER TO SEE HIM AGAIN!
AND NOW SIT TIGHT, FOR -
"HERE COMES ALFRED!"
BOB KANE
HOW TO BE a DETECTIVE

NIGHT--AND A SMALL PASSENGER VESSEL ENDS A PERILOUS WARTIME CROSSING OF THE ATLANTIC AT A GOTHAM CITY PIER...

TWO SHIPBOARD ACQUAINTANCES SAY GOODBYE, NEVER DREAMING THAT THE HAND OF FATE WILL CAST THEM TOGETHER AGAIN SOONER THAN THEY THINK...

THE PARTIN' OF THE 'WAYS, MR. LEDUC! IT'S BEEN A PLEASURE TALKIN' TO YOU--AND I WISH YOU THE BEST, AND ALL THAT BALLY TOSH!

AH, MY ENGLISH FRIEND, I HOPE YOU FIND HAPPINESS AND SUCCESS IN THIS STRANGE LAND OF AMERICA!

YOU'RE GASTON LEDUC, EH? AND THIS IS YOUR PERMIT TO ENTER THE COUNTRY WITHOUT UNDERGOING INSPECTION... ALL RIGHT--YOU MAY PASS!

CUSTOMS INSPECTION

"HOW TO BE A DETECTIVE IN TEN EASY LESSONS"... SO YOU'RE A SLEUTH?

AND RAWTHER GOOD AT IT, IF I DO SAY SO!

HMMM... I'VE KNOWN ALL ALONG THERE WAS SOMETHIN' MYSTERIOUS ABOUT THAT GENTLEMAN!

TRY AS I WOULD I COULDN'T MAKE HIM TALK ABOUT HIMSELF! I'VE HALF A MIND TO FOLLOW HIM NOW!

WELL, IT'S A FREE COUNTRY, AND YOU'RE IN IT! ... NEXT!

AT THE PIER EXIT, THREE SWARTHY INDIVIDUALS WATCH THE NEW ARRIVALS WITH BEADY, GLITTERING EYES...

ON GUARD! IF YOU MISS OUR MAN, MY DAGGER WILL NOT MISS YOUR SCRAWNY BODIES!

I AM NOT AFRAID, MANUEL! MY EYES ARE AS KEEN AS YOUR KNIVES!

AND IN TURN, THE WATCHERS ARE WATCHED BY TWO DARK FIGURES THAT BLEND OMINOUSLY WITH THE SHADOWS!

SO THAT'S MANUEL STILETTI, THE INTERNATIONAL CROOK! WHAT DO YOU THINK HE'S UP TO, BATMAN?

THAT'S WHAT I WANT TO FIND OUT! ALL I KNOW IS, WHENEVER MANUEL AND HIS CUTTHROATS ARE ON THE PROWL, TROUBLE ISN'T FAR AWAY!

PRESENTLY...

I'M TWO YEARS LATE ALREADY, SO IT WON'T MATTER IF I TAKE AN HOUR OR TWO MORE TO FOLLOW LEDUC AND SATISFY MY CURIOSITY!

STEAM

PIER 2

IT IS HE! REGARD THE VALISE!

HE SHALL NOT ESCAPE US!

GIVE ME THE VALISE QUIETLY, AMIGO, AND PERHAPS I SHALL LET YOU LIVE!

OTHERWISE, YOU ARE DEAD LIKE A DOG!

EH--WHAT?...OH-H-A BALLY STICKUP, SUCH AS I'VE SEEN IN THE CINEMA!...

I'M AFRAID YOU BLIGHTERS WILL HAVE TO WAIT TILL I'VE FINISHED MY BOOK!
TWIN TORNADOES OF JUSTICE, THE BATMAN AND ROBIN, DASH TO THE RESCUE OF THE SCARED BUT NONE-TOO-MEEK VICTIM!
GOOD FOR HIM, WHOEVER HE IS! WE COULD ALMOST SIT THIS ONE OUT --
DIABLO! FOR THAT YOU SHALL NOT DIE LIKE A DOG BUT LIKE A PEEG!
-- BUT IT ISN'T EVERY DAY I GET A CHANCE TO PUT MY MARK ON A FAT RAT LIKE MANUEL STILETTI!
MY WORD!
NICE FOOTWORK, CHUM -- BUT HOW DO YOU LIKE MINE?
DRIVE LIKE MAD, PABLO! THEY ARE THE BATMAN AND ROBIN!
WHAT HO!
CAN'T WE CHASE THEM?
BY THE TIME WE GOT TO THE BATMOBILE, THEY'D HAVE DISAPPEARED!
MISTER BATMAN AND MAWSTER ROBIN -- I AM DEEPLY INDEPTED TO YOU AND SHALL REPAY YOUR CHIVALRY!
FORGET IT!... BY THE WAY -- WHAT WERE THEY AFTER?
MY VALISE, SIR -- BUT THERE'S NOTHING OF VALUE INSIDE IT! WHAT A JOKE ON THEM IF THEY'D GOT IT! HA, HA!
AND WHAT A JOKE ON YOU IF THEY'D KILLED YOU!
AS FOR REWARDIN' YOU - I MYSELF AM AN AMATEUR CRIMINOLOGIST OF LITTLE EXPERIENCE BUT MUCH TALENT, AND I SHALL GIVE YOU THE BENEFIT OF MY ASSISTANCE IN YOUR INVESTIGATIONS IN MY SPARE MOMENTS!
WELL, YOU SEE, WE'RE SO USED TO OUR OWN METHODS THAT ANY FRESH TALENT MIGHT DAZZLE US!
BUT YOU MIGHT CALL ON US SOMETIME AND TALK IT OVER!
BY JOVE, I SHALL! YOU MAY EXPECT ME AS SOON AS I HAVE ATTENDED TO A LITTLE MATTER OF BUSINESS!

LATER, AS THE ADVENTURERS PREPARE TO GO TO BED...
THAT WAS A GOOD ONE, BRUCE-- TELLING HIM TO CALL ON US, WHEN NOBODY KNOWS WHO THE BATMAN AND ROBIN ARE, OR WHERE THEY LIVE!
OH WELL--MAYBE HE FANCIES HE'S SMART ENOUGH TO FIND US!
IMAGINE A DIMWIT LIKE HIM FINDING US WHEN SOME OF THE SMARTEST MEN IN THE WORLD HAVE TRIED AND FAILED!... OH, OH-- SOMEONE'S AT THE DOOR!
I'LL ANSWER IT!
R-R-R-G-G-G!!
WHO CAN IT BE AT THIS HOUR?
PROBABLY SOME OF YOUR NIGHT-OWL SOCIETY FRIENDS!
THE NEXT INSTANT...
GOOD EVENIN', GENTLEMEN! I TRUST I HAVEN'T DISTURBED YOUR REST!
HUH?
I'LL JUST SET MY LUGGAGE DOWN, IF YOU'LL PERMIT ME-- AND THEN WE'LL DISCUSS MY DUTIES!
WHAT A TIME I HAD GETTIN' HERE, MR. WAYNE! IT WAS NECESSARY TO WAIT A YEAR FOR A SHIP IN ENGLAND-AND THE ONE I FINALLY GOT, STARTED BY WAY OF THE INDIAN OCEAN!
BUT-- BUT -- BUT--
TWO SHIPS WERE TORPEDOED UNDER ME AND I SPENT A FORTNIGHT ADRIFT ON A LIFE RAFT! BUT MY MOST MEMORABLE EXPERIENCE HAPPENED WITHIN THE HOUR, WHEN THUGS ATTACKED ME AND THE BATMAN AND ROBIN DROVE THEM OFF!
WHY, THEN-- YOU DIDN'T KNOW--
QUIET, DICK!
I'VE ALWAYS ADMIRED THE BATMAN AS A BROTHER CRIMINOLOGIST, Y'KNOW-- BUT WOULD YOU BELIEVE IT, WHEN HE AWSKED ME TO CALL, I QUITE FORGOT TO AWSK HIS ADDRESS!
WELL!

QUITE A TIME YOU'VE HAD! BUT NOW THAT YOU'RE HERE, WHAT CAN I DO FOR YOU, MR--ER--ER?
YOU MAY CALL ME "ALFRED" WITHOUT THE "MISTER" --AND IT'S I WHO WILL DO FOR YOU! YOU SEE, I'M YOUR NEW BUTLER!
BUTLER! BUT I HAVEN'T HAD ONE IN YEARS! I DIDN'T SEND FOR ONE, AND I'M AFRAID I DON'T WANT ONE!
WE'VE FOUND WE CAN GET ALONG BETTER WITHOUT SERVANTS OF ANY KIND!
IT MAY BE A BIT AWKWARD AT FIRST, SIR-- BUT I DARE SAY YOU'LL GET USED TO ME!
YOU MAY REMEMBER MY FATHER, JARVIS, WHO WAS YOUR FATHER'S BUTLER FOR MANY YEARS! THE POOR OLD GENTLEMAN WAS HEARTBROKEN WHEN I FORSOOK THE FAMILY CALLING TO BE AN ACTOR IN THE MUSIC HALLS!
SO YOU'RE THE SON OF GOOD OLD JARVIS! HOW IS HE?
GONE, SIR... AND ON HIS DEATHBED, HE MADE ME PROMISE TO MEND MY WAYS AND COME TO YOUR HOUSE IN AMERICA! SO YOU SEE, EVEN IF YOU DON'T WANT ME, THERE ISN'T ANY HELP FOR IT!
UH-- WELL--
BUT I MUSTN'T KEEP YOU STANDING HERE IN YOUR BAWTHROBES... I'LL TURN DOWN THE BEDS AND MAKE THINGS READY FOR THE NIGHT!
AND I THOUGHT I'D SEEN PRETTY NEAR EVERYTHING!
BUT WE CAN'T HAVE HIM DOING HIS AMATEUR SLEUTHING HERE! IF HE SHOULD FIND OUR SECRET LABORATORY AND THE TUNNEL TO THE BAT-PLANE HANGAR, HE'D REALLY KNOW THE IDENTITY OF THE BATMAN AND ROBIN!
YOU'RE RIGHT... BUT I HAVEN'T THE HEART TO SEND HIM PACKING TONIGHT! I'LL THINK OF SOMETHING IN THE MORNING!
BUT BEFORE DAWN A FURTIVE TRIO APPROACHES THE WAYNE HOME...
THIS IS UNTHINKABLE... THAT WE SHOULD FAIL! IF WE DO NOT GET THE VALISE TONIGHT, MILLIONS OF DOLLARS WILL SLIP THROUGH OUR FINGERS!
RATHER WOULD I ROT IN PRISON THAN HAVE THAT HAPPEN!
AND A SILENT BEAM OF LIGHT AWAKENS BRUCE!
WHA--? MY SPECIAL BURGLAR ALARM! SOMEONE HAS FORCED OPEN ONE OF THE EAST WINDOWS!

OH, YOU'RE AWAKE ... MY BURGLAR ALARM IS ON, AND I WONDERED IF YOU KNEW-- BUT I SEE YOU DO!
GET INTO YOUR UNIFORM, IN CASE WE HAVE TO GO OUT-- AND DON'T FORGET, WE'LL HAVE TO MAKE UP SOME EXPLANATION FOR THE BATMAN AND ROBIN APPEARING HERE IF WE DON'T WANT TO GIVE OURSELVES AWAY!
AND NOW LET US JOIN THE REMARKABLE ALFRED AS HIS ENTHUSIASM FOR HIS NEW JOB CARRIES HIM FAR INTO THE NIGHT...
MR WAYNE IS A NICE PERSON BUT A TYPICAL BACHELOR! LOOK AT THESE NEWSPAPERS, WEEKS OLD AND NOT YET TAKEN OUT!... HMMM-- THIS PICTURE...
IT IS HE, GASTON LE DUC! NO WONDER I SENSED SOMETHING MYSTERIOUS ABOUT HIM! I MUST LOOK HIM UP AND LET HIM KNOW I PIERCED HIS INCOGNITO!
The GOTH
DUKE OF DORIAN PREMIER, FLEES NAZI INVASION
DUKE OF DORIAN
A MOMENT LATER...
SO-- YOU THOUGHT TO ESCAPE! YOU DID NOT THINK WE WOULD FOLLOW YOU, EH?
BLAWST IT! IF I RESIST IT WILL DISTURB THE MAWSTERS --AND A GOOD BUTLER NEVER LETS THAT HAPPEN!
THERE IS NO BATMAN TO SAVE YOU NOW, ENGLISH DOLT! LEAD US TO THE VALISE BEFORE MY TRIGGER FINGER BECOMES IMPATIENT!
IT'S IN THIS ROOM!... YOU CAN HAVE IT --B-BUT P-PLEASE DON'T KILL ME!
AH! AT LAST! THE TREASURE IS OURS!
BLESS ME-- I KNEW THAT VALISE WAS OLD, BUT I NEVER DREAMED IT WAS A VALUABLE ANTIQUE!
I SAY- IT'S BAD ENOUGH TO STEAL, BUT IT'S DOWNRIGHT CRIMINAL TO DESTROY A THING WHILE THERE'S STILL USE IN IT!
PABLO, HE ANNOYS ME! KILL HIM!
WITH THE GREATEST OF PLEASURE!

SUDDENLY...
YOU ROTTEN MURDERERS! DIDN'T THINK I COULD FOLLOW YOU, DID YOU?
I SAY, OLD CHAP, YOU'RE CERTAINLY WELCOME!
YOU AGAIN!
YOU ARE AS GOOD AS DEAD, BATMAN! MANUEL NEVER MISSES!
I'LL BET YOU GET A KICK OUT OF THIS!
YIPE!
WELL, HARDLY EVER!
WHAT -- 2... I SHALL HAVE REVENGE FOR THIS, BRAT!
HAW! DEUCED CLEVER!
JUST TO MAKE SURE YOU HAVE YOUR FULL QUOTA OF BAD LUCK!
I AM ASSASSINATED!
THOSE OF THE CRIMINALS WHO ARE STILL ABLE, EXIT WITH INELEGANT HASTE...
WAIT, THOMAS! YOUR LEADER SHOULD GO FIRST!
THEY'RE GETTING AWAY! COME ON, ROBIN!
THEY'RE GETTING INTO A CAR! I'LL GET THE BATMOBILE!
BETTER TIE THIS FELLOW BEFORE HE COMES TO!
YES, SIR! AND ABOUT YOUR ADDRESS--
STRANGE... HE DIDN'T SEEM TO HEAR ME AWSKING WHERE HE LIVES!... OH, WELL -- I'LL SEE WHETHER MR. WAYNE AND MAWSTER DICK HAVE BEEN DISTURBED BY THE NOISE AND TIE UP THIS BLIGHTER LATER!
7

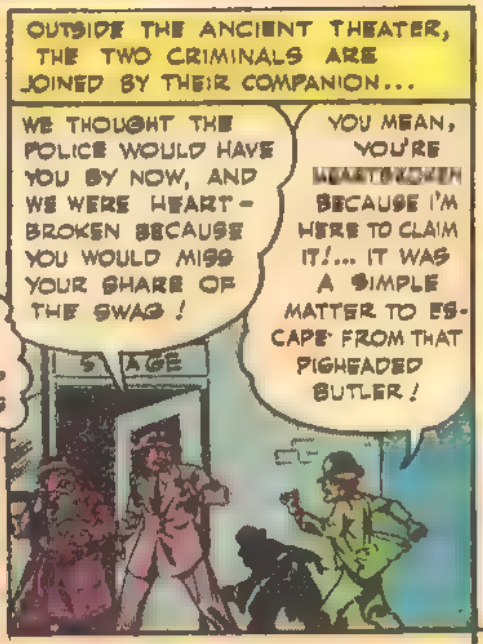
PRESENTLY...
MAWSTER DICK IS NOT IN HIS ROOM... AND MR. BRUCE HAS VANISHED ALSO! HERE IS A MYSTERY WORTHY OF MY GREATEST TALENTS!
I SHALL CONSULT MY DETECTIVE BOOK AND -- EH, WHAT! 'PON MY SOUL, THE BLIGHTER HAS REVIVED AND IS COMIN' AWFTER ME!
SO---THE PLEASURE OF KILLING YOU HAS BEEN DELAYED, BUT NOT LOST!
I HAVE A SHARP ANSWER FOR THAT CLUMSY BLOW!
A GOOD TROUNCING WILL IMPROVE YOUR MANNERS, MY MAN! OUCH!
BONG
WELL, WELL -- IT APPEARS A MISS IS AS GOOD AS A KNOCKOUT! HA, HA -- A JEST! I MUST REPEAT IT FOR THE AMUSEMENT OF MR. WAYNE!
AA-A-A-A!
BUT IN FALLING, THE HEAVY SHIELD HAS STRUCK A CONCEALED TRIGGER, AND RELEASED A SECRET SPRING -- AND...
BY JOVE! A SLIDING PANEL AND A SECRET STAIRWAY! IT REMINDS ME OF SOME OF THE OLD CASTLES IN ENGLAND!
CURIOSITY LEADS THE EXTRAORDINARY BUTLER TO INVEST GATE...
A CRIMINOLOGICAL LABORATORY -- AND A TUNNEL LEADING SOMEWHERE BEYOND!
IN AN UNDERGROUND HANGAR... A LIGHT IS SWITCHED ON....
A PLANE WITH BAT-SHAPED WINGS! IT MUST BE THE FAMOUS BATPLANE I'VE HEARD SO MUCH ABOUT! I DO BELIEVE I'M GOING TO MAKE AN AMAZING DEDUCTION...
THERE CAWN'T BE ANY DOUBT ABOUT IT -- MR. BRUCE WAYNE IS THE BATMAN, AND THE YOUNG MAWSTER IS ROBIN! HOW CLEVER OF ME TO HAVE DISCOVERED IT -- AND HOW FORTUNATE THEY ARE TO HAVE A MAN OF MY ABILITIES IN THEIR EMPLOY!

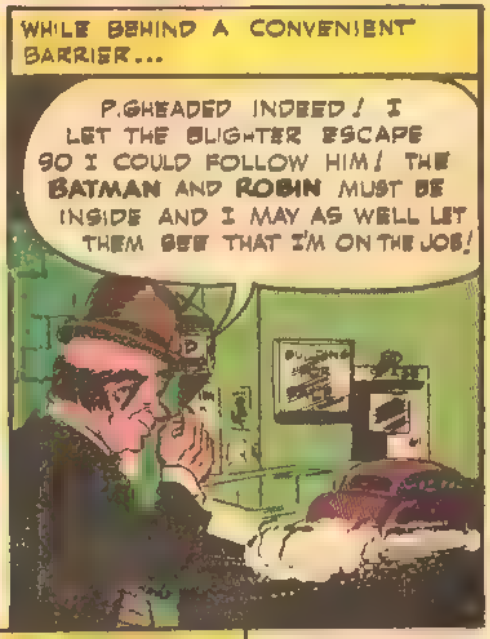
MEANWHILE, NEVER DREAMING THAT THE ALL-IMPORTANT SECRET OF THEIR DOUBLE IDENTITY HAS BEEN PIERCED BY A STROKE OF LUCK, THE BATMAN AND ROBIN JOIN IN HOT PURSUIT OF THE FLEEING MANUEL...
THERE THEY ARE -- TURNING THAT CORNER AHEAD!
STEP ON IT! IF WE DON'T CATCH THEM NOW, WE MAY NEVER HAVE ANOTHER CHANCE!
MOMENTS LATER...
I CAN'T THINK OF ANY BETTER HIDEOUT THAN AN ABANDONED THEATER!
THERE'S THEIR CAR -- BUT WHERE ARE THEY?
BUILDING FOR SALE
STEEL MUSCLES FORCE A LOCKED DOOR, AND THE DYNAMIC DUO VENTURES INTO COBWEB-DRAPED DARKNESS...
SPOOKY PLACE, ISN'T IT? I'LL BET NOBODY'S BEEN HERE FOR YEARS!
YOU'D LOSE YOUR MONEY! EVEN ALFRED WOULD KNOW BETTER SEEING THESE FOOT-PRINTS IN THE DUST!
BRRR-R-R! I CAN HEAR THE GHOSTS OF DEAD PLAYS MOANING!
THERE'S A STRANGE WHIRRING SOUND COMING FROM SOMEWHERE!
A STRANGE SOUND INDEED -- AND AN OMINOUS ONE -- FOR IT IS MADE BY WHIRRING ENDS OF WEIGHTED ROPES SWUNG BY AN EXPERT HAND IN THE SHADOWS OF A BOX...
NOW, TOMAS!
LOOK OUT! - ROBIN!
TOO LATE! THE NEXT INSTANT, HISSING COILS WHIP AROUND THE LIMBS AND BODIES OF THE STARTLED CRIME-CRUSHERS...
WHA -- ? A BOLA!
I CAN'T MOVE MY ARMS OR FEET! I'M FALLING!
AS FINE A CAST AS WAS EVER MADE! NOW TO FINISH THEM!
NOT YET! LET US DO ALL OUR KILLING AT ONCE, AND DISPOSE OF THE BODIES TOGETHER! THESE STUPID ONES WILL BE SAFE IF WE TIE THEM TIGHTER AND HOIST THEM INTO THE AIR!
9

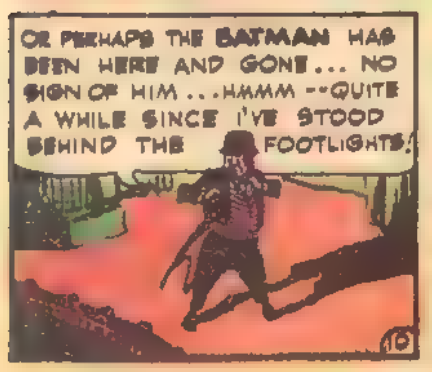
BOUND AND GAGGED, THE HAPLESS PRISONERS ARE HOISTED ALOFT...
AT LAST YOU HAVE BEEN OUTWITTED, BATMAN! YOU CANNOT SHOUT FOR HELP--AND IF YOU BREAK YOUR BONDS, YOU WILL BE DASHED TO PIECES BY THE FALL!
SOON WE SHALL BURN THE THEATER ABOUT YOUR EARS -- BUT FIRST, WE SHALL BRING A THIRD VICTIM TO SHARE YOUR FIERY FATE!

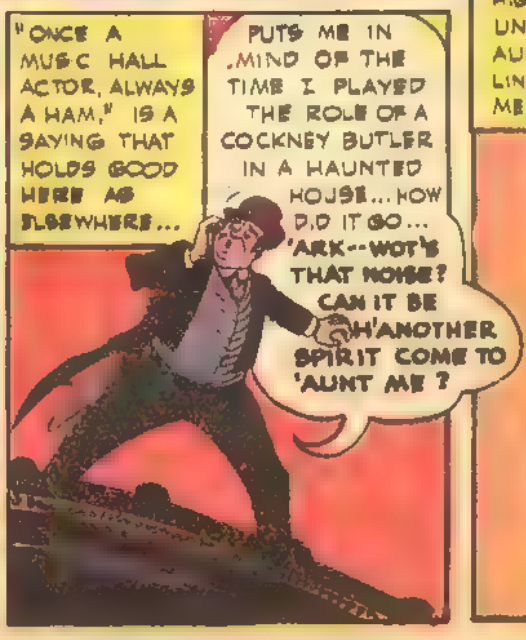
WE HAVE LEARNED THE THIRD MAN'S IDENTITY AND PRESENT ADDRESS FROM THE LABELS ON THE VALISE WHICH GAVE US SO MUCH TROUBLE! THEY FORMED A CODE MESSAGE SENT BY OUR CLEVER COLLEAGUES ABROAD!
DEATH FOR YOU AND A VAST FORTUNE FOR US! IS IT NOT DROLL?

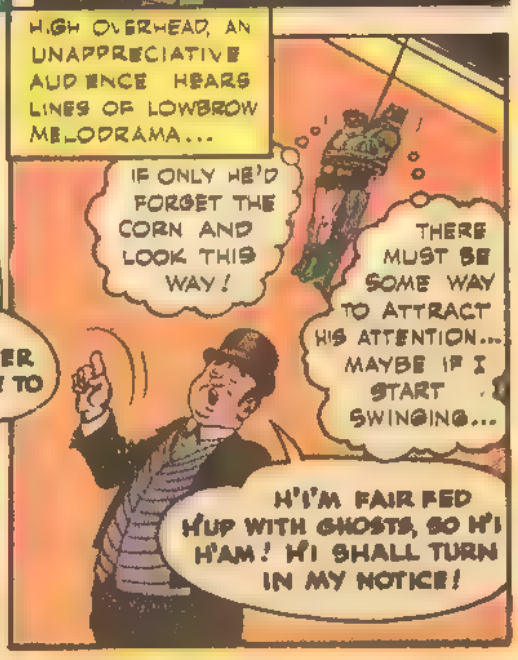
LEFT ALONE, THE PLIGHT OF THE BATMAN AND ROBIN SEEMS HOPELESS...
WE'VE BEEN IN TIGHT SPOTS BEFORE, BUT I CAN'T SEEM TO RECALL ANY TIGHTER THAN THIS!
IF ONLY THEY HADN'T GAGGED US! IT MIGHT HELP TO TALK THINGS OVER!


OUTSIDE THE ANCIENT THEATER, THE TWO CRIMINALS ARE JOINED BY THEIR COMPANION...
WE THOUGHT THE POLICE WOULD HAVE YOU BY NOW, AND WE WERE HEART-BROKEN BECAUSE YOU WOULD MISS YOUR SHARE OF THE SWAG!
YOU MEAN, YOU'RE HEARTBROKEN BECAUSE I'M HERE TO CLAIM IT!... IT WAS A SIMPLE MATTER TO ESCAPE FROM THAT PIGHEADED BUTLER!


WHILE BEHIND A CONVENIENT BARRIER...
PIGHEADED INDEED! I LET THE BLIGHTER ESCAPE SO I COULD FOLLOW HIM! THE BATMAN AND ROBIN MUST BE INSIDE AND I MAY AS WELL LET THEM SEE THAT I'M ON THE JOB!


OR PERHAPS THE BATMAN HAS BEEN HERE AND GONE... NO SIGN OF HIM...HMMM--QUITE A WHILE SINCE I'VE STOOD BEHIND THE FOOTLIGHTS!
10


"ONCE A MUSIC HALL ACTOR, ALWAYS A HAM," IS A SAYING THAT HOLDS GOOD HERE AS ELSEWHERE...
PUTS ME IN MIND OF THE TIME I PLAYED THE ROLE OF A COCKNEY BUTLER IN A HAUNTED HOUSE... HOW D'D IT GO... 'ARK--WOT'S THAT NOISE? CAN IT BE H'ANOTHER SPIRIT COME TO 'AUNT ME?


HIGH OVERHEAD, AN UNAPPRECIATIVE AUDIENCE HEARS LINES OF LOWBROW MELODRAMA...
IF ONLY HE'D FORGET THE CORN AND LOOK THIS WAY!
THERE MUST BE SOME WAY TO ATTRACT HIS ATTENTION... MAYBE IF I START SWINGING...
H'I'M FAIR FED H'UP WITH GHOSTS, SO H'I H'AM! H'I SHALL TURN IN MY NOTICE!

BACK AND FORTH, IN EVER-WIDENING SWEEPS, THE BATMAN SWINGS HIS BODY-- UNTIL AT LAST HIS BOUND FEET CATCH ON A LOOSE ROPE...
HERE'S HOPING IT WORKS!
WONDER WHAT HE'S UP TO?
WRITHING LIKE A SERPENT, THE ROPE WHIPS ACROSS THE STAGE...
H'AWAY, H'AWAY, YE BLOOMIN' SPECTER! KEEP YER GHOSTLY FINGERS H'OFF ME!
OH-H-H-H! IT'S REALLY HAPPENIN'!
-S-W-I-S-H-
WELL! FOR A MOMENT I THOUGHT-- EH? ... WHY, THERE ARE THE BATMAN AND ROBIN IN DISTRESS!
AND AT THIS VERY MOMENT, MANUEL AND HIS THUGS ARE ENTERING AN APARTMENT IN AN EXCLUSIVE NEIGHBORHOOD...
AND THAT MIGHT BRING THE POLICE!
SOFTLY! IF WE AWAKEN THE OTHERS, WE SHALL HAVE TO USE OUR GUNS!
AND ALFRED'S MYSTEROUS FRIEND OF THE SHIP HAS A RUDE AWAKENING...
NOT A SOUND, DUKE, OR YOU ARE A DEAD MAN!
BAH-- WHAT DO WE CARE FOR YOUR GOVERNMENT? SILENCE HIM, BABLO!
NO, YOU MUST NOT TAKE THE CROWN JEWELS! I BROUGHT THEM HERE TO ESTABLISH CREDITS FOR MY GOVERNMENT-IN-EXILE!
TO THINK HE BROUGHT THOSE JEWELS SECRETLY HALF AROUND THE WORLD, ONLY TO LOSE THEM AT THE END OF THE JOURNEY! IT SHOWS WHAT SHARP EYES AND EARS THE UNDERWORLD HAS!
AND IT SHOWS HOW PROMPTLY WE HAVE ACTED! ANOTHER TWO HOURS AND THE JEWELS WOULD HAVE BEEN IN A SAFE-DEPOSIT VAULT!
BACK IN THE THEATER...
AH, BATMAN-- I SEE YOU HAVE WAITED!
AS A REWARD, YOU SHALL HAVE DISTINGUISHED COMPANY WHEN THE FIRE STARTS -- A NOBLEMAN WHOSE FRIENDS WILL NEVER KNOW WHAT HAS HAPPENED TO H.M!
NOR WILL THE POLICE, WHICH IS MORE IMPORTANT!

BUT WITH LIGHTNING SWIFTNESS, HOODED FIGURES PLUMMET FROM THE SHADOWS OVERHEAD!
YOU'RE ABOUT TO HAVE SOME DISTINGUISHED COMPANY YOURSELF -- AND WE'RE IT!
THIS CANNOT BE! IT IS A JOKE!
WHA--!
A JOKE ON YOU!
QUICKLY, TOMAS -- KILL THEM OR ALL IS LOST!
TIME TO RING DOWN THE CURTAIN ON THIS ACT!
LOOK OUT, TOMAS!
IT IS THE BATMAN WHO HAD BETTER LOOK OUT!
BEFORE DEADLY STEEL AND LEAD CAN STRIKE, ALFRED LOOSENS A ROPE IN THE WINGS... AND THE CURTAIN WITH IT'S HEAVY WOODEN FRAMEWORK, HURTLES DOWNWARD!
THAT'S RIGHT-- TAKE A BOW! AH! GOOD WORK, OL' BEAN!
OOO-O-O...
A FITTING FINALE FOR A BAD ACTOR! EH, WOT?
HERE'S AN ALL-STAR ACT TO FINISH THE BILL!
12
SO THESE ARE WHAT THEY WERE AFTER! BUT WHERE DID THEY COME FROM AND WHO DO THEY REALLY BELONG TO?
IF YOU WILL PERMIT ME, SIR, I CAN ELUCIDATE THE MYSTERY!
WH-WHERE AM I?
THEY ARE THE CROWN JEWELS OF THE COUNTRY OF WHICH THIS MAN- THE DUKE OF DORIAN -- IS THE PREMIER! HE BROUGHT THEM HERE SECRETLY FOR HIS GOVERNMENT, BUT SOMEHOW THESE CRIMINALS GOT WIND OF IT!
MY FRIEND! YOU HAVE SAVED MY LIFE AND MY COUNTRY'S TREASURES -- AND TO THINK I LAUGHED WHEN YOU SAID YOU WERE AN AMATEUR DETECTIVE!
AND HE WASN'T THE ONLY ONE WHO LAUGHED!

THE FOLLOWING EVENING...
ALFRED'S PRETTY PROUD SINCE WE GAVE HIM FULL CREDIT FOR THIS CASE! I REALLY THOUGHT HE'D DONE A GREAT JOB OF DETECTING, TILL IT TURNED OUT HE GOT ALL HIS INFORMATION BY ACCIDENT!
FOR AWHILE, I WAS AFRAID HE'D FIND OUT WHO WE REALLY ARE-- BUT IF WE'RE CAREFUL, IT WILL BE SAFE TO LET HIM STAY, SINCE HE ISN'T TOO BRIGHT!
GOTHAM GLOBE
WAYNE BUTLER CATCHES CROWN JEWEL THIEVES
ALFRED
BEG PARDON, SIRS... YOU'LL BE GOING OUT DIRECTLY, AND I THOUGHT I MIGHT ASSIST YOU WITH YOUR UNIFORMS!
WHAT'S THIS!
HUH?... THOSE CLOAKS... WHY, WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?
THE SEARCHLIGHT WENT ON A FEW SECONDS AGO! I BELIEVE IT MEANS THE POLICE REQUIRE THE BATMAN'S SERVICES!
THE SIGNAL!... BUT-- BUT WHAT'S THAT GOT TO DO WITH US?
YOU FORGET MY DEDUCTIVE ABILITIES! I HAVE KNOWN SINCE LAST NIGHT THAT YOU WERE THE BATMAN AND ROBIN -- BUT I SAW NO REASON TO MENTION IT TILL NOW!
SOMETHING TELLS ME I WAS WRONG IN WHAT I SAID A MINUTE AGO, BRUCE!
COULD BE!
WELL, YOU'RE ONE OF US NOW, ALFRED! I HOPE YOU REALIZE THAT IF YOUR KNOWLEDGE LEAKED OUT, ROBIN'S LIFE AND MINE WOULD BE FORFEIT. CRIMINALS WOULD HAVE AN EASIER TIME OF IT!
I UNDERSTAND PERFECTLY, AND YOU MAY RELY UTTERLY ON MY DISCRETION! YOUR CLOAK, SIR...
I DON'T THINK WE NEED TO WORRY!
MOMENTS LATER, THE BATPLANE RACES THROUGH THE NIGHT SKY...
AND AS THE DARING HEROES KEEP ANOTHER RENDEZVOUS WITH HIGH ADVENTURE, ALFRED MAKES A COMPROMISE WITH HIS CONSCIENCE!
THEY ARE SO IMPRESSED WITH ME, IT WOULD NEVER DO TO TELL THEM I LEARNED THEIR IDENTITY BY SHEER LUCK! MUCH BETTER TO ACT MYSTERIOUS AND SAY NOTHING!
ALFRED CAN BE USEFUL, AT THAT! HE SAVED OUR LIVES IN THE THEATER! HE MUST BE SMARTER THAN WE THINK TO HAVE SEEN THROUGH OUR DISGUISE!
KEEP AN EYE ON ALFRED! YOU HAVEN'T SEEN THE LAST OF HIM!
13

C'mon— BOYS·GIRLS MEN·WOMEN PICK YOUR PRIZE

THESE PRIZES ARE GIVEN TO YOU—Just send for 40 packets of easy selling Garden Spot Seeds which you can easily and quickly sell to your friends and neighbors at 10c each. Return the $4.00 collected and select your Prize in accordance to our offers. SEND NO MONEY—WE TRUST YOU.

One Pair Racing HOMER PIGEONS

Its fun to raise and train and handle Racing Homer Pigeons. **One pair of mated birds given for selling only 1 order of seeds.** *Sent Ex. Collect*

Priscilla Curtain Set

All given as one Premium for selling only 1 order of seeds. *Sent postpaid.*

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Just the Instruments for you until you can afford those of larger size. **ALL 3 INSTRUMENTS. GUITAR-Uke, BANJO and MANDOLIN given for selling only 40 pkts. of Garden Spot Seeds at 10 cts. a pkt.**

A Real Live Canary FOR YOU!

What a Pet! You will love it. **Canary and Cage both given for selling only one order of seeds at 10 cts. a packet.** *Sent Ex. Collect.*

ONE PAIR RABBITS

The raising of rabbits for the market is a fascinating business. **We offer and guarantee safe arrival One Pair of Rabbits for selling only two orders.** *Rabbits sent Ex. Collect.*

Everyone who plants a garden will help to solve the problem of the feeding of the nation.

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Sell only one order of Garden Spot Seeds at 10 cts. a packet and this splendid Camera is yours. WRITE FOR SEEDS TODAY.

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Beautiful DINNER SET

This beautiful Set Given for selling only 3 orders of Seeds. *Sent Express Collect.*

CHENILLE BED SPREAD

Here is a handsome addition to your bed room. Your choice of colors. **Sell only one order of Garden Spot Seeds at 10c plus 30c.**

THIS PIN IS YOURS FREE

Just mail the Coupon today and this beautiful Pin, symbolic of American Freedom, will be sent right along with the seeds. HURRY!

MAIL COUPON TODAY

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Basket Ball GIVEN

Latest Rubber Valve Type. **Given for selling only 40 pkts. at 10 cts. each.**

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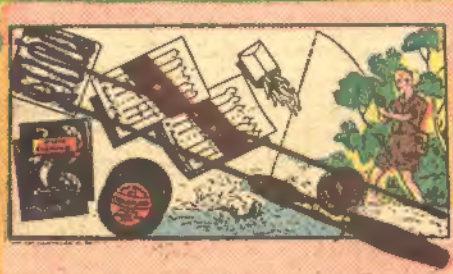

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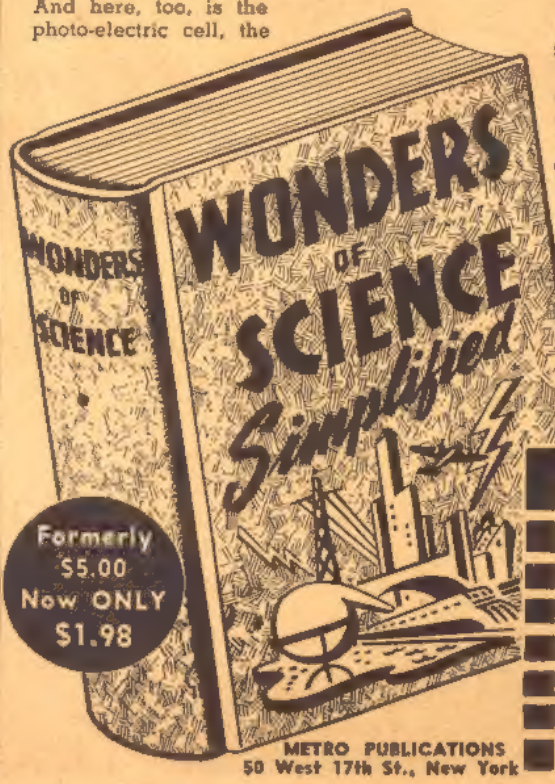

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Mail Coupon TODAY

GENE AUTRY COMPLETE HOLSTER SET
You can be a straight shootin' cowboy with this Gene Autry holster, cap pistol, handkerchief and hat. Given for selling only one order of American Seeds.

NEW CANDID-TYPE CAMERA—easy to operate. Given for selling only one order of American Seeds.

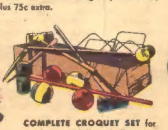
"TAKE-ME-ALONG"—Gal's Overnight Case. Dozens of uses. Mirror lid. Sell only one order.

WRIST WATCHES for boys, girls, men and women. Given for selling only one order, plus 75c extra.

BASKET BALL SET given for selling only one order of American Seeds.

Given for selling only one order. Sent express collect—
SAFE DELIVERY GUARANTEED.

A DELUXE FISHING OUTFIT
—rod, reel, line and hooks complete. Given for selling one order American Seeds, plus 25c extra.



COMPLETE CROQUET SET for 4 players. Mallets, balls, wires and stakes all given for selling only one order American Seeds.

GIRLS! You'll love this **FULL SIZE TOILET AND MANICURE SET.** Given for selling only one order.

This Genuine Gene Autry Guitar will delight you. Given for selling only one order PLUS $3.00 extra.

PEPPERELL BLANKET
Genuine Pepperell "Warmweave" Blanket for selling only one order.

VICTORY LIGHT. Easily carried flashlight with three lenses—**RED** for warning, **WHITE** for regular use, **BLUE** for blackouts. Complete with batteries. Sell one order.

CHEMISTRY SET. Famous "Chemcraft" Set for interesting home experiments. Sell only one order of American Seeds.

VICTORY WATCH & FOB
Handsome Modern Pocket Watch. Sell only one order of American Seeds.

GET YOUR PRIZE THIS EASY WAY

Most prizes shown above and dozens of others in our Big Prize Book are given WITHOUT COST for selling only one 40-pack order of American Vegetable and Flower Seeds at 10c per large pack. Some of the bigger prizes require extra money, as stated.

Everybody wants American Seeds for Victory Gardens—they're fresh and ready to grow. You'll sell them quickly and get your prize at once, or, if you prefer, take one-third cash commission on all seeds sold. GET BUSY—send coupon today for free prize book and seeds.

OUR 25TH YEAR.

Send No Money—We Trust You

AMERICAN SEED CO., INC., Dept. 908, Lancaster, Pa.

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Please send the BIG PRIZE BOOK and 40 packs of Vegetable and Flower Seeds. I will resell them at 10c each, send you the money promptly, and get my prize.

My choice of prize is _____

Name _____

R.F.D. Box or Street No. _____

City _____ State _____